

FELLOWSHIPS IN THE HUMANITIES, 1983-1991¹

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Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a survey of the sponsors of the four major national fellowship programs in the humanities: the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Humanities Center², and the American Council of Learned Societies. The data reported and analyzed here were collected directly from the funding institutions by ACLS during the late winter of 1991 and provide information on fellowship awards made between the 1983-84 academic year and the 1990-91 academic year.

The report focuses on these four programs because they represent the main national competitions that are unrestricted as to subject and encompass all areas of the humanities disciplines. There are also a number of other fellowship programs that are either subject-specific or administered by individual, campus-based humanities centers and other centers of advanced study. Data from those programs is still being collected and will be analyzed as soon as it is complete.

¹The American Council of Learned Societies gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Peter Kardon of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, Mr. Kent Mullikin of the National Humanities Center, and Ms. Guinevere Griest of the National Endowment for the Humanities in providing data on the fellowship programs of their organizations.

²Data reported here for the National Humanities Center are not strictly comparable to those reported for ACLS, Guggenheim, and ACLS because of differences between the NHC and the institutions that offer portable fellowships. Stipend expenditures do not indicate the true financial value of a fellowship at the Center, which also provides funds for travel to and from Research Triangle, office space, library service, manuscript typing, and a subsidized food service. The value of none of these items is reflected in the information discussed in this report. In addition, each year a few scholars who come to the Center arrive with most of their basic stipend covered by other agencies (including ACLS, Guggenheim, and NEH). In these cases, the Center provides only a small supplement to the other fellowship awards. The presence of such minimally funded fellowships in the data reduces average stipends for the Center somewhat. Moreover, the range of stipends at the Center is greater than those for the other agencies. The highest stipend offered by the Center during the period considered in this report was \$35,000. The lowest was \$1,100.

For the moment, the present report seeks to assess the recent history of the four major national programs since they represent the traditional core of fellowships in the humanities and, as a group, are far less restrictive with respect to the subjects of research and other aspects of eligibility for funding than the programs of the centers.

The organization of the report is straightforward. It begins with an evaluation of the aggregate data for the four national fellowship programs; then it attempts to compare the four funders and their recent experience. After offering some brief conclusions, it ends with an addendum that assesses the place of ACLS within the national pattern described in earlier sections.³ The data are presented in a variety of graphic formats in the attached figures and are also offered in summary tabular form at the end.⁴

³Data for ACLS conflate two programs, the ACLS Recent Recipients of the Ph.D. Fellowship Program and the Council's regular fellowships. This procedure was adopted in order to facilitate comparisons since none of the other funders distinguish between less experienced and more mature scholars in precisely this way.

⁴The data reported here for the Guggenheim Foundation represent only 40% of all the fellowships that the Foundation made in the period under consideration because officials of the Foundation estimate that only 40% of all the applications the Foundation receives and 40% of all the awards it makes are to applicants in the humanities. The other 60% is awarded to scientists, social scientists, and artists.

The National Pattern

As Figure 1 indicates, the total available dollars for fellowships in the humanities from the four national programs rose steadily between 1983 and 1987, reaching a high point of \$11.5 million in 1987. After that year, the total available resources for fellowships declined steadily to just under \$10 million in 1991. Much of this decrease may be accounted for by a sharp downward trend in the spending of the Guggenheim Foundation after 1987. This step, taken by the Foundation for sound fiscal reasons and to correct a previous policy that had permitted it to invade its principal, nonetheless radically reduced the total support available to individual fellowship applicants in the humanities.

Figure 2 shows that average stipends for individual scholars increased quite dramatically between 1984 and 1988, but they have been virtually flat since then. This increase in average stipends is at least partially accounted for by the fact that the total number of awards has been declining steadily from 1987 (Figure 3), when the four institutions made a total of 522 awards until this year, when they collectively provided only 426 fellowships, a decline of 18.4% in the number of awards actually made.⁵ Taken as a group, therefore, their policies have sacrificed the total number of scholars supported for the provision of more support to those scholars who actually win fellowships. In other words, as total resources for fellowships have declined, the national fellowship granting institutions have chosen to attempt to keep stipends at reasonable levels, even as they have been forced to reduce the number of scholars they support.⁶

One result of these policies is that the national ratio of applications to

⁵Data presented on the number of available awards in a given year are deceptive since many individuals receive more than one award in a given time period and are able to combine them either by holding them simultaneously or consecutively. Thus, the precise number of scholars being supported in any academic year is actually smaller than the number of awards. Unfortunately, the existing data do not permit us to estimate precisely how much smaller.

⁶The Guggenheim Foundation's reduction in total expenditures, referred to above is complex and involves technical information on the Foundation's tax credits with the Internal Revenue Service. Of more interest is the fact that after a five-year reduction in total expenditures and number of awards, the Foundation will be able to increase both substantially. Depending upon where it sets the level of average stipends, the Guggenheim Foundation will increase the number of awards it makes in the humanities from 66 in the current competition to between 80 and 90 in the competition of 1994-1995.

awards, the best measure of the difficulty individual scholars face in acquiring fellowship support, has risen from 9.33 to 1 in 1983 to 11.45 to 1 this year, an increase of more than 20% (see Figure 4). This increased difficulty in winning fellowships grows directly from the relationship between the declining numbers of dollars and awards, on the one hand, and a steady, if occasionally fluctuating, number of applications on the other (Figure 5). This national trend actually conceals some significant differences among the four agencies that are discussed below.

This discouraging national pattern is even more worrisome if some attempt is made to account for inflation. Figure 6 shows the total value of the fellowship awards made by the four agencies in constant dollars.⁷ The figure shows that the loss of value for fellowships in the humanities has been very nearly calamitous. Over the period between 1983 and 1991, fellowship expenditures in the humanities lost 37.33% of their value. Figure 7 presents similar information in a slightly different fashion. It compares the rate of increase in fellowship expenditures to the rate of increase in the consumer price index and shows that national fellowship programs have simply been unable to keep up.

Calculations with respect to average fellowship stipends reveal a similar pattern of decline. As Figure 8 shows, the average stipend declined in constant dollars from \$18,324 in 1983 to \$13,376 for the fellowships being awarded this year, a loss in value of 27% over the period in question. Figure 9 reveals that, as in the case of total expenditures on stipends, the rate of increase in the average stipend failed to approach the rate of increase in the consumer price index.

To sum up the changes since the 1983-1984 academic year, then, there has been a significant decrease in the number of absolute dollars being spent on fellowship stipends, in the average stipend measured in absolute dollars, and in the total number of awards the four national competitions have been able to make. These losses, damaging as they are, seem comparatively insignificant when inflation is taken into account. Measurements made in constant dollars or those made comparing changes in the availability of real dollars to the CPI

⁷Data in this and succeeding sections that attempt to account for inflation are based upon TIAA-CREF's estimate that inflation has averaged 5.5% per year over the last decade. No attempt has been made to be precise with respect to annual rates of inflation, which obviously deviate somewhat from this average.

indicate far more disastrous losses to the national resources available to support individual fellowships in the humanities.

Simultaneously, these less numerous and less valuable fellowships have become more difficult to win since the number of applications has not declined significantly. In other words, a comparison between the 1983-4 academic year and the current academic year reveals that fewer humanities scholars seeking fellowship support can expect to succeed and that they will have a much more difficult time raising much less money to support their work.

The role of the national funders, some may argue, has declined in precise proportion to the rise of the campus-based humanities centers. The losses to fellowship funding at the national level, it has been said, are more than compensated for by the new resources that have become available in the local centers. That may be so, and we are currently gathering the data that will either confirm or refute this argument. Whatever the results of those inquiries, however, the role of the national funders is more than financial. They distribute honor as well as money, and no other funders can pretend to distribute as much honor as the four discussed here. That is not a small matter for members of a profession where honor at the national level is a key not only to professional geographic mobility, but also to vertical mobility within institutions.

The fellowship programs of the national funders differ, moreover, in another significant way. They are unrestricted with respect to the subjects of research and writing. Most of the local humanities centers have a thematic emphasis that changes periodically. Scholars winning fellowships must propose projects that suit that theme or they are not eligible for support. In recent years, the themes of the centers have frequently bypassed many areas of the humanities altogether with the result that scholars who work in those fields can only apply to the national fellowship programs.⁸

Furthermore, the fellowships of ACLS, Guggenheim, and NEH offer a practical advantage that neither the National Humanities Center nor any of the other campus-based humanities centers can offer: they are portable. Scholars

⁸At one time, for example, the Rockefeller Foundation supported a program of fellowships with a single national competition. It now supports many of the local centers whose themes are narrower and restrictions are tighter than those of the national fellowship programs.

who win them need not uproot families for a year in order to pursue their work. Instead, they may use the funds to engage in either writing or research as their projects require and in a location or locations most appropriate to their personal and professional circumstances. This is not an inconsiderable factor at a time when many fellowship winners are likely to be members of two-career families.⁹

In addition, it should also be said that the professional honors distributed by the national fellowship programs are not merely a matter of perception. No other process of peer review can possibly be as competitive as those which open the possibility of a fellowship award to any scholar in any field of the humanities inside or outside the academy from anywhere in the country. The decline of the national fellowship competitions is thus palpably a loss to the entire scholarly world for it removes a substantial fraction of the profession's ability to determine for itself who among its many members is most deserving of national recognition.

⁹As a matter of statistical fact, residential centers that are distant from a scholar's home support fewer women than men. For example, more than half the awards in the just-completed ACLS competition went to women. Fewer than one-third of those at the National Humanities Center went to women. While this is certainly not a matter of conscious policy, but more likely a matter of self-selection by potential applicants, it is nonetheless true that portable fellowships offer greater flexibility for scholars with significant concerns about child care and schools. The result is that there are fewer practical opportunities for fellowship support available to women than to men and, in all probability, to younger scholars than to older scholars.

Variations Within The National Pattern

What of the distribution of the available funds among the four funders? The NEH has consistently controlled the largest share of the available fellowship dollars in this country. The Endowment's proportion of those dollars has increased since 1983-4, however, from 56.78% to 63.97% (see Figures 10-13).¹⁰ Similarly, its share of the total number of available awards has increased from just under 50% in 1983 to more than 57% this year (see Figures 14-17). These changes represent a shift in the nexus of decision-making that bears watching. One of the great virtues of the existing system is that control over fellowship decisions is decentralized and made by different panels of scholars in different institutions. A shift that decreases the number of awards and the amount of money, while simultaneously placing a greater percentage of the remaining awards under the control of a single institution (in this case, NEH), is a source of concern that the entire scholarly community ought to note.

Among the other funders, the most significant change has been that the Guggenheim Foundation's share of both dollars and awards has declined from almost a quarter of the total in 1983 to a bit more than 15% in the current year. This is a consequence of the Foundation's recent decision, referred to above, to cease invading its own capital without allowing average stipend levels to fall. The inevitable result has been a smaller expenditure on stipends and fewer awards. ACLS and the National Humanities Center have about the same role in the national picture that they had in 1983: they are smaller but nonetheless significant players. In any event, NEH accounted for more than half of all the fellowship awards that were made over the entire period and almost 60% of all the dollars that were spent on fellowship stipends.

The number of applications that each institution receives varies from year to year (see Figure 18). Of the four, the steadiest rate has been experienced by the National Humanities Center, which is the only one of the four that requires its fellows to be in residence. It received 519 applications in 1983; this year it received 561, an increase of 8%. In contrast, the number of applications to NEH

¹⁰The data for ACLS and the National Humanities Center include substantial funds that originated in the regrant programs of the Research Division of NEH. They are counted here as ACLS and NHC funds, however, because NEH did not control the selection process through which they were disbursed.

actually fell significantly for much of the period in question, only returning to the 1983 level this year. Guggenheim's application numbers have declined rather steadily, reaching a low point this year of 1,388, a decline of almost 11% since 1983.

On the other hand, ACLS, whose average stipends have consistently been the lowest of the four, has undergone a significant increase in application levels over the period from 891 in 1983 to 1125 this year, a rise of more than 26%. These decreases in application numbers at Guggenheim and NEH can only be accounted for by self-selection by applicants and the perception on the part of some scholars that, for whatever reasons, Guggenheim and NEH fellowships are difficult to obtain. In contrast, during the same period ACLS has been quite self-consciously attempting to solicit applications from scholars who might not otherwise have applied. The ironic result is that ACLS's less generous fellowships have become increasingly difficult to win.

A comparison of the number of awards each institution makes reveals a slightly different pattern (Figure 19). Again, the NHC's experience has been quite unvarying; it made precisely as many awards in the current year as it did in 1983, although in no year during the period was it able to provide enough fellowship awards to fill all of the available studies in its building in Research Triangle, North Carolina. All of the other agencies, however, have reduced the number of awards that they make; Guggenheim by almost 50%, NEH by about 4%, and ACLS by a third.

These figures compare interestingly to the data for average stipends (Figure 20). Leaving aside for the moment the impact of inflation on average stipends, all four agencies have been able to increase their average stipends somewhat. Of the four, Guggenheim has done the best in this respect increasing from \$19,403 in 1983 to \$26,515 in the current year, an increase of 36%. The NEH has also raised average stipends significantly from \$21,682 to \$24,805, an increase of 14%. The National Humanities Center and ACLS, with fewer resources and less flexibility than their larger colleagues, have managed increases of 11% each.¹¹

¹¹In the case of ACLS, this increase is almost entirely accounted for by the 1986 decision to raise the maximum stipend for the Recent Recipients program from \$8,500 to \$10,000 and to raise the maximum grant for the regular fellowship program from \$12,500 to \$15,000.

It should be noted, however, none of the national funders has been able to keep up with inflation. Only Guggenheim has come close to doing so, and it has achieved this result only by cutting its total number of awards in half, a much more drastic cut than any of the others have instituted or could have contemplated. Indeed, of the four agencies, only the Guggenheim Foundation has the financial resources, institutional flexibility, and independence to be able to approach the inflation rate in setting stipend levels without reducing the number of awards. For the others, less drastic but still significant cuts in the number of awards have only prevented them from falling even further behind the CPI than they otherwise would have done; these cuts have not permitted NEH, ACLS, and NHC to set realistic stipends for their fellows.

Figure 21, which provides details of the decline in average fellowship stipends measured in constant dollars, indicates just how precipitous the decrease have been for each of the funders. All of them have experienced serious losses; even Guggenheim, which has had the most flexibility to move stipends up to compensate for inflation, has failed to keep up in the last two years. For the others, the data are self-explanatory and the results for individual scholars may easily be surmised.

Data measuring the ratio of applications to awards (Figure 22) provides an important context for understanding the data on the number of awards and average stipends. They also raise one of the more perplexing anomalies of the national fellowship picture. Generally, success ratios for the individual institutions have been rising, but there has also been some significant variation. The NHC's pattern has been comparatively steady with the ratio increasing by only 8%. ACLS's ratio has risen much more steeply by more than 55%.¹² Guggenheim has undergone the most radical upward swing, increasing its ratio of applications to awards by two-thirds. The NEH ratio, in contrast, has hardly changed at all moving up by less than 4%. More than that, NEH fellowships have always been by far the easiest of the four to win. At the present time, they are twice as easy to get as those of ACLS and NHC; they are three times as easy to obtain as those of the Guggenheim Foundation.

¹²Furthermore, next year ACLS can expect another radical upward swing in its ratio of applications to awards since the Council has determined to increase its stipends (from a maximum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$20,000) and to reduce the total number of awards proportionately.

It is difficult to provide a definitive explanation for this anomaly. NEH stipends have been consistently higher than those of NHC and ACLS, and very close to or above those of Guggenheim. Yet application levels have remained steady over the period while those of ACLS, with much lower stipend levels, have risen dramatically. When combined with a cut in award numbers less drastic than Guggenheim's, the result is an atypically slow rate of increase in the success ratio at NEH.

One explanation is that NEH applications are due for submission rather early, in the May before the academic year in which the Endowment makes its decisions. The other agencies do not require that applications be submitted until the Fall of the relevant competition year. Another explanation is that the universe of fellowship seekers is a limited one, perhaps no larger than 2,000 scholars in any given year. This inherent constraint on the size of the applicant pool would necessarily cause the ratio of applications to awards at NEH to be lower than for the other institutions since NEH has the largest number of awards to give. Thus, if we assume that there is an annually self-selected pool of eligible and qualified applicants that has not expanded very much in the last decade, lower ratios of applications to awards at NEH may not be so mysterious after all.

One final set of data merits brief examination. The total annual expenditures of each funder on fellowship stipends appears in Figure 23. The only one of the four that has been able to achieve a significant increase in total expenditures is NEH whose spending on stipends increased by almost 15%. In absolute terms, Guggenheim's expenditures dropped most radically, by about 25%. ACLS's expenditures dropped off by about 10% while NHC's expenditures increased by a bit more than 10%. Again, it bears repeating that even the two funders that did increase expenditures in absolute dollars did not do so at anything near the rate of inflation.

Moreover, Guggenheim's apparent capacity to maintain stipend levels was clearly accomplished in spite of a decrease in total expenditures, further evidence both that the Foundation was supporting fewer fellows at the end of the period than at the beginning and that it had the resources and flexibility that the others lacked to decrease radically the number of awards and increase the average stipend while continuing to maintain a credible program. Still, Guggenheim's choices were consequential: its total decrease in expenditures, when measured in

constant dollars was the greatest of the four, falling by almost 55%.

Figure 24 adds some refinement to this discussion. It shows the corrosive effect of inflation on total expenditures. All of the funders have suffered real losses here just as they have in the average stipends they can offer to their fellows. What is even more significant, however, is that these losses have occurred at a time when inflation has been rather moderate. If inflation should increase in the next decade, as it may well do, the losses the funders have sustained in the past eight years will seem almost desirable by comparison since there is no prospect that the four funders, either collectively or individually, will find a way so radically to increase expenditures that they will either be able to compensate for past losses to inflation or keep up with it in the future.

Conclusion

Of the four programs, it is clear that NEH's has been consistently the most generous with respect to the number of scholars the Endowment has been able to support and with respect to the amount of support it has been able to give to individual fellowship winners. On balance, it is also true that the National Humanities Center has managed a program whose consistency by almost every measure has been impressive, despite the Center's acknowledged difficulties in raising the money necessary to support its fellows. Unless the Center can radically increase its stipend levels, however, it seems unlikely that it will be able to attract as many distinguished scholars in the future. Inflation has eroded the support the Center can provide to individuals. The future of the Center's program will thus be deeply affected both by the general fundraising environment and by the larger economy.¹³

Insofar as the Guggenheim Foundation's program is concerned, it is arguably the healthiest of the four. Although the cuts in the Foundation's program described above have been damaging in the short term to the larger scholarly enterprise, there can be no denying that they were necessary. What is more, they will have the effect of putting the Foundation's fellowships on a much firmer footing in the future. Unlike NHC, NEH, and ACLS, the Foundation has a substantial endowment whose growth has been assured by the policies of the Foundation's current leadership.

¹³This is not the place for an extended discussion of the funding environment and the role of the large private foundations in supporting unrestricted fellowships in the humanities, but since both the National Humanities Center and ACLS have counted on the foundations in the past to maintain their fellowship programs, it may at least be worth observing that the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation have entirely abandoned their historical role with respect to unrestricted humanities fellowships. As noted above, the Rockefeller Foundation continues to support humanities research through its support of the local humanities centers. The Pew Charitable Trusts, which have on occasion provided support to both ACLS and the National Humanities Center, have recently announced that they will no longer support post-doctoral fellowships of any kind. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has only occasionally provided this sort of support in the past and, at the moment, there is no prospect that it will do so in the future. Among the largest foundations with a conceivable interest in the humanities, that leaves only the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation whose support for the humanities has been unwavering but which cannot reasonably be expected to bear this burden alone.

Even more important, the Guggenheim endowment is large enough to permit Guggenheim to continue to maintain a credible fellowship program, even without additional infusions of capital. The Foundation is now seeking additional capital, however, and owing to its support for artists particularly, there is some prospect of its acquiring considerable corporate support. Finally, Guggenheim has an additional advantage: it is entirely independent of the politics of higher education. The various attacks on scholars and scholarship in the humanities that have been so common in recent years have no effect on the Foundation because it does not depend either upon the government or other foundations for support of its programs. None of the other three funders has this advantage. In the long run, that may prove the most important fact of all.

In general, the data reported in this document present a depressing picture of declining resources to support the work of individual scholars in the humanities. Yet the real losses are actually not losses to individuals or to institutions at all. They are instead losses to the world of learning as a whole. There were 511 fellowship awards in 1983-4 and only 426 this year. How many fewer books and essays will be written as a result? What losses will these incomplete projects portend for other scholars and for undergraduate and graduate teaching?

The recent recognition that we may actually face a shortage of capable scholars in the 1990s has prompted many graduate schools to increase enrollments in their Ph.D. programs in the humanities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of the major graduate schools are seeing increases in both the number applications they receive in the humanities and in their quality. The Mellon Foundation is about to launch a major program of support for these newly recruited students. How will they be able to undertake productive careers as teachers and scholars if there are only limited funds to support the major national fellowship programs.

If it is true that we are about to enter a period of unusual stringency in university budgets that will be accompanied by a serious shortage of well-trained scholars to fill soon-to-be vacant positions, how can we expect colleges and universities to continue to fund generous leave programs, which are also a vital part of the national system supporting scholarship in the humanities? Indeed, one of the reasons that many scholars can even afford to accept an ACLS, a

Guggenheim, an NEH, or National Humanities Center fellowship is that their home institution not only provides a leave, but "tops up" fellowship awards in order to see that the fellows suffer no financial loss as a consequence of accepting the national award.

Further, the dropping number of awards is disturbing for another reason. It has never been easy to make decisions about fellowship awards. There have always been far more qualified scholars than fellowships. This is not an entirely bad thing since stiff competition assures the reputation both of the fellowships and those who receive them. Still, there is a level below which the numbers should not be permitted to drop. No one who has served on a selection panel in recent years or as a responsible staff officer at a fellowship granting institution can fail to have been impressed, even overwhelmed, by the high quality of the applicant pool.

As the number of possible awards drops, these decisions become ever more difficult and, at a certain point, selection panels and juries begin to complain that the amount of work involved is not justified by the number of awards or, even more important, all parties begin to have the uneasy feeling that many distinctions are being drawn among applicants without any real difference. This eventually leads to the view among decision-makers and applicants alike that the selection process borders on the arbitrary and is almost certainly unfair.

In the end, it would not be too dramatic to say that the decline of fellowship support for humanities scholars detailed in this report can only be understood as a trend with potentially harmful consequences not only for the individuals involved, but also for higher education at every level and, in the end, for the quality of cultural life in this country. The unwillingness of so many private foundations, to say nothing of corporations and the federal government, to provide more long-term assistance with fellowship funding is thus short-sighted and does not endanger the ACLS, the National Humanities Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, or NEH nearly so much as it endangers the nation's capacity to preserve, interpret, and disseminate the irreplaceable cultural resources that the humanities represent.

Addendum: ACLS in a National Context

The foregoing discussion provides a useful background for the recent history of the ACLS program of fellowships. It is immediately apparent that ACLS falls somewhere in the middle of the four fellowship granting agencies. Its program is smaller by every measure than either NEH or Guggenheim, and it is about to become smaller still. While the ACLS fellowship program is bigger in dollars and awards than the National Humanities Center's, the gap is closing as the ACLS program shrinks, and ACLS has not been able to be as generous in the past to its fellows as NHC has been to its awardees. On the other hand, the ACLS fellowships are harder to win than any of the others except those of the Guggenheim Foundation, and they may well surpass that level of difficulty next year when stipends increase and the number of awards drops.

In short, although the ACLS fellowship has historically been the least lucrative of those offered by the four funders, it is about to become the most difficult one to acquire. The explanation for this situation has been alluded to above, but some brief additional comment may be useful. Whatever the reasons, the number of applications that ACLS receives has risen faster and more dramatically than is the case for any of the other four. This undeniable fact speaks very well for the Council's national reputation as a funder that is open to many approaches from scholars from many backgrounds, institutions and disciplinary perspectives, as well as for the expansion of that reputation in recent years. Thus, although it is distressing to discover that we can provide support to only a very small proportion of the highly qualified scholars who apply to us, there is some comfort in knowing that we have maintained a deserved reputation for even-handedness in the distribution of awards.

Beyond that, although the ACLS program has suffered the most grievous losses of the four by some measures, this study should persuade us once again of the unique position that ACLS occupies in the academic world. Despite the changing fortunes of the ACLS program, it occupies now about the same position in the national picture that it occupied in 1983-4. With respect to the proportion of total national expenditures (Figures 10-13) and to the proportion of all fellowships in the humanities (Figures 14-17) represented by ACLS, very little has changed. About 20 % of all the available national fellowships and about 12% of all the

fellowship dollars in the humanities are accounted for by the ACLS fellowship program, just as they were in 1983-4. To that extent, ACLS has managed to maintain its independent role as the only funder of the four that is directly responsible to the academic community. Indeed, that is also why we, rather than any of the other funders, felt a special responsibility to undertake this study.

Our endowment is small, much smaller than Guggenheim's, but it is ours. Political pressures in government and changing fashions in the foundation world will always be a concern to ACLS, but they will never threaten the existence of our fellowship program, only its size. Still, a close look at figures that evaluate the ACLS program in constant dollars offers little comfort (see Figures 25 and 26). The slide in both average stipends and total expenditures measured in constant dollars has been consistent and disastrous, especially if it is also born in mind that the number of awards has also declined considerably during the same period (See Figure 19). These facts by themselves argue for a very careful evaluation of the future of the ACLS fellowship program that at least considers the possibility of restricting the applicant pool in some way, whether by focussing on scholars at a particular point in their careers or from particular kinds of institutions or by some other sort of criterion. In any event, the policy issues that these data present for ACLS are real enough and ought to be at the center of the discussions of the Fellowship Committee and the entire Board next year.

NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE
HUMANITIES, 1983-1991

GUGGENHEIM*	1983-4	1984-5	1985-6	1986-7	1987-8	1988-9	1989-90	1990-1
# of Applications	1,558	1,566	1,628	1,515	1,430	1,376	1,414	1,388
# Awards	123	119	120	121	116	91	66	66
Average Stipend	\$19,403	\$20,014	\$21,740	\$23,168	\$24,255	\$26,432	\$26,235	\$26,515
Total Expenditure on Fellowship Stipends	\$2,350,400	\$2,377,680	\$2,617,480	\$2,808,000	\$2,813,600	\$2,400,000	\$1,742,000	\$1,750,00
Ratio of Applications to Awards	12.65	13.18	13.52	12.50	12.33	15.15	21.30	21.03

ACLS	1983-4	1984-5	1985-6	1986-7	1987-8	1988-9	1989-90	1990-1
# of Applications	891	984	1,105	1,118	1,309	1,138	1,197	1,125
# Awards	99	101	103	103	101	91	91	80
Average Stipend	\$11,732	\$11,817	\$11,704	\$13,252	\$13,218	\$13,187	\$13,187	\$13,125
Total Expenditure on Fellowship Stipends	\$1,161,500	\$1,193,500	\$1,205,500	\$1,395,000	\$1,335,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,050,00
Ratio of Applications to Awards	9.00	9.74	10.73	10.85	12.96	12.51	13.15	14.06

Fellowships in the Humanities

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NEH

	1983-4	1984-5	1985-6	1986-7	1987-8	1988-9	1989-90	1990-1
# of Applications	1,800	1,887	1,813	1,663	1,577	1,533	1,557	1,803
# Awards	255	279	245	263	252	235	255	246
Average Stipend	\$21,682	\$21,398	\$24,559	\$25,061	\$24,754	\$24,894	\$24,569	\$24,805
Total Expenditure on Fellowship Stipends	\$5,529,000	\$5,970,000	\$6,017,000	\$6,591,000	\$6,238,000	\$5,850,000	\$6,520,000	\$6,348,000
Ratio of Applications to Awards	7.06	6.76	7.40	6.32	6.26	6.52	6.11	7.33

NHC

	1983-4	1984-5	1985-6	1986-7	1987-8	1988-9	1989-90	1990-1
# of Applications	519	481	553	578	544	531	507	561
# Awards	34	39	38	35	32	39	33	34
Average Stipend	\$20,478	\$18,119	\$19,479	\$20,733	\$23,831	\$19,957	\$21,403	\$22,794
Total Expenditure on Stipends	\$696,250	\$706,652	\$740,204	\$725,669	\$762,600	\$778,333	\$706,300	\$775,000
Ratio of Applications to Awards	15.26	12.33	14.55	16.51	17.00	13.62	15.36	16.50

Fellowships in the Humanities, 1983-1991

Figures 1-26

National Fellowship Resources

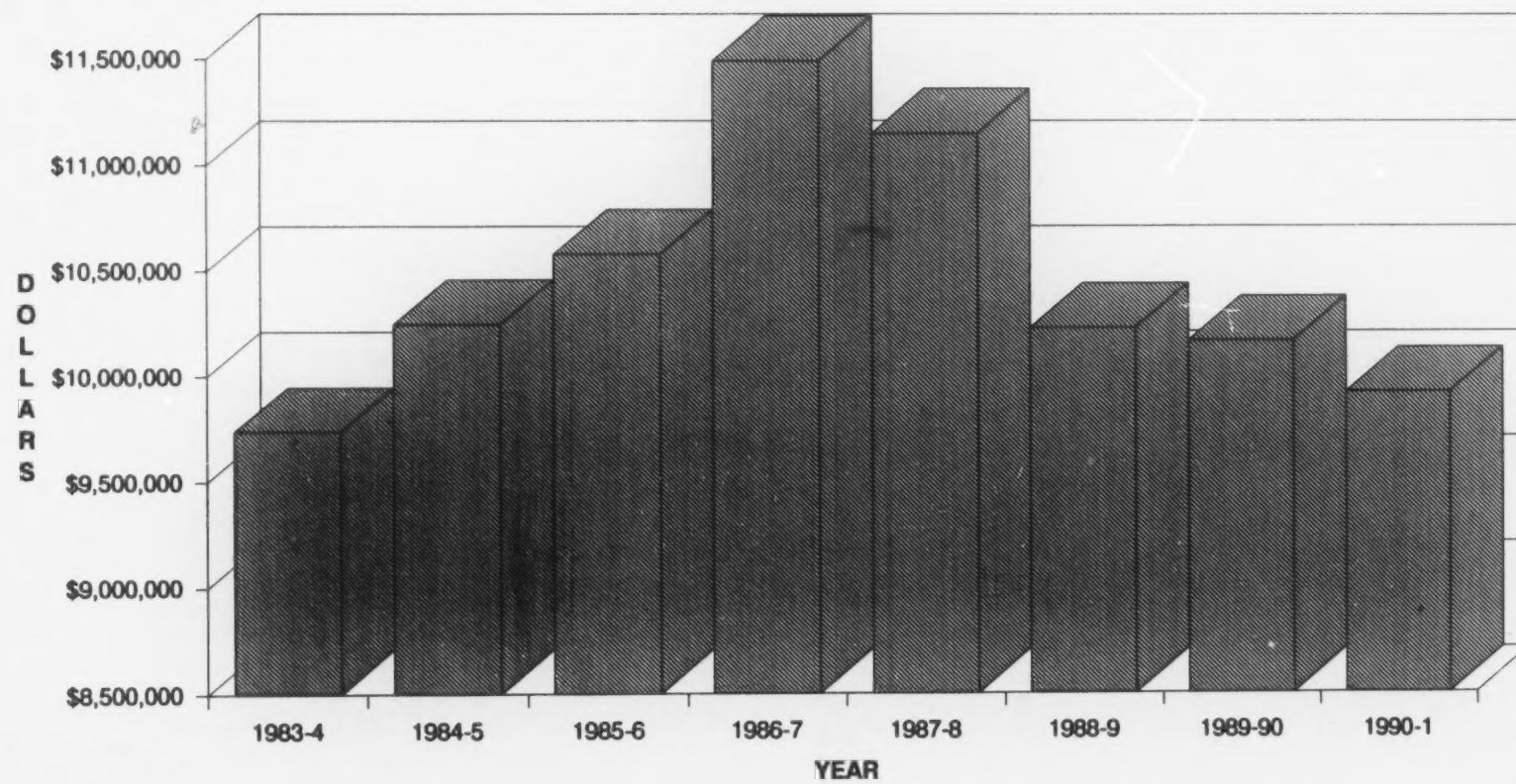


Figure 1

Average Stipend for All National Fellowship Competitions

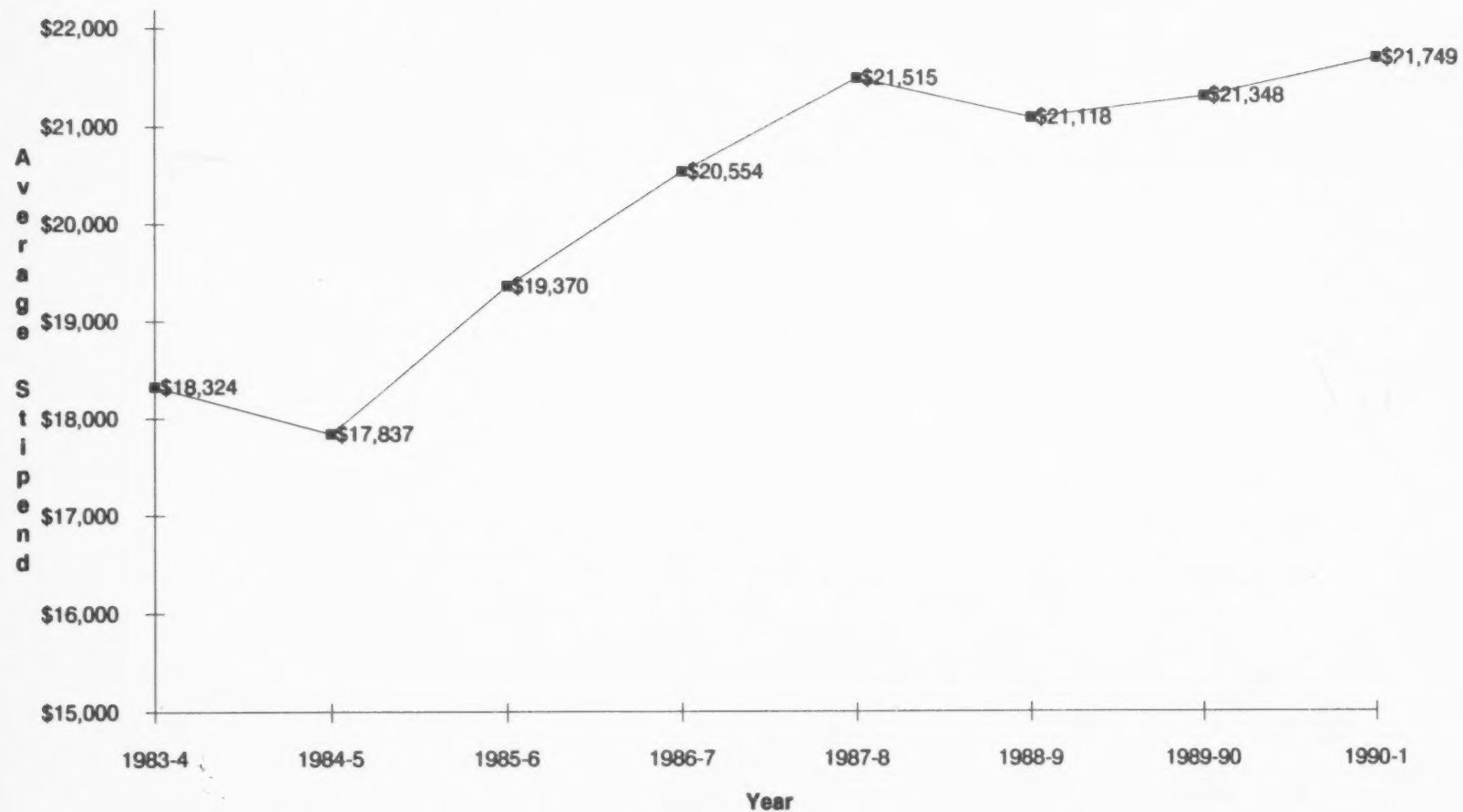


Figure 2

Total Number of Awards for All National Fellowship Competitions

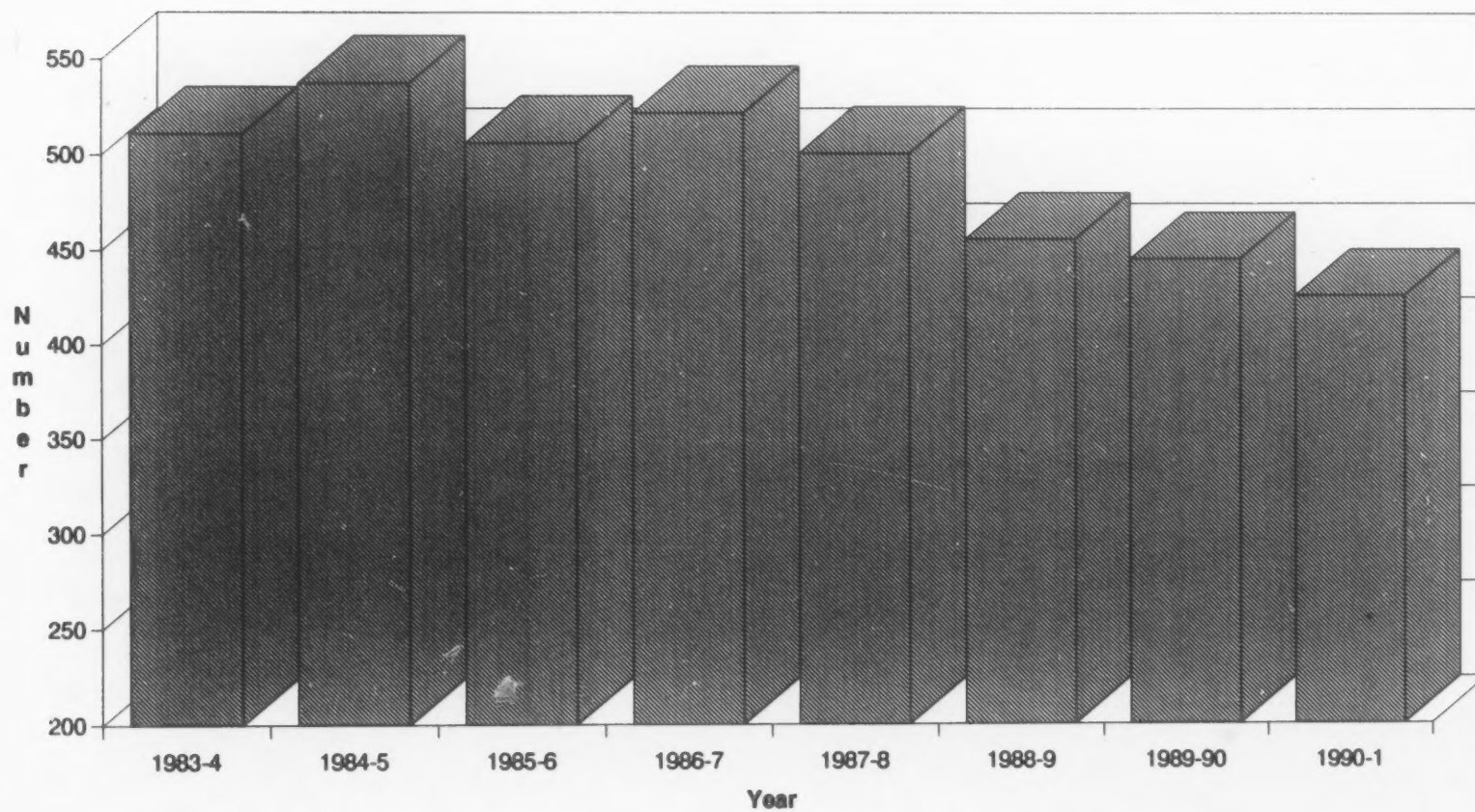


Figure 3

Ratio of Applications to Awards for All National Fellowship Programs

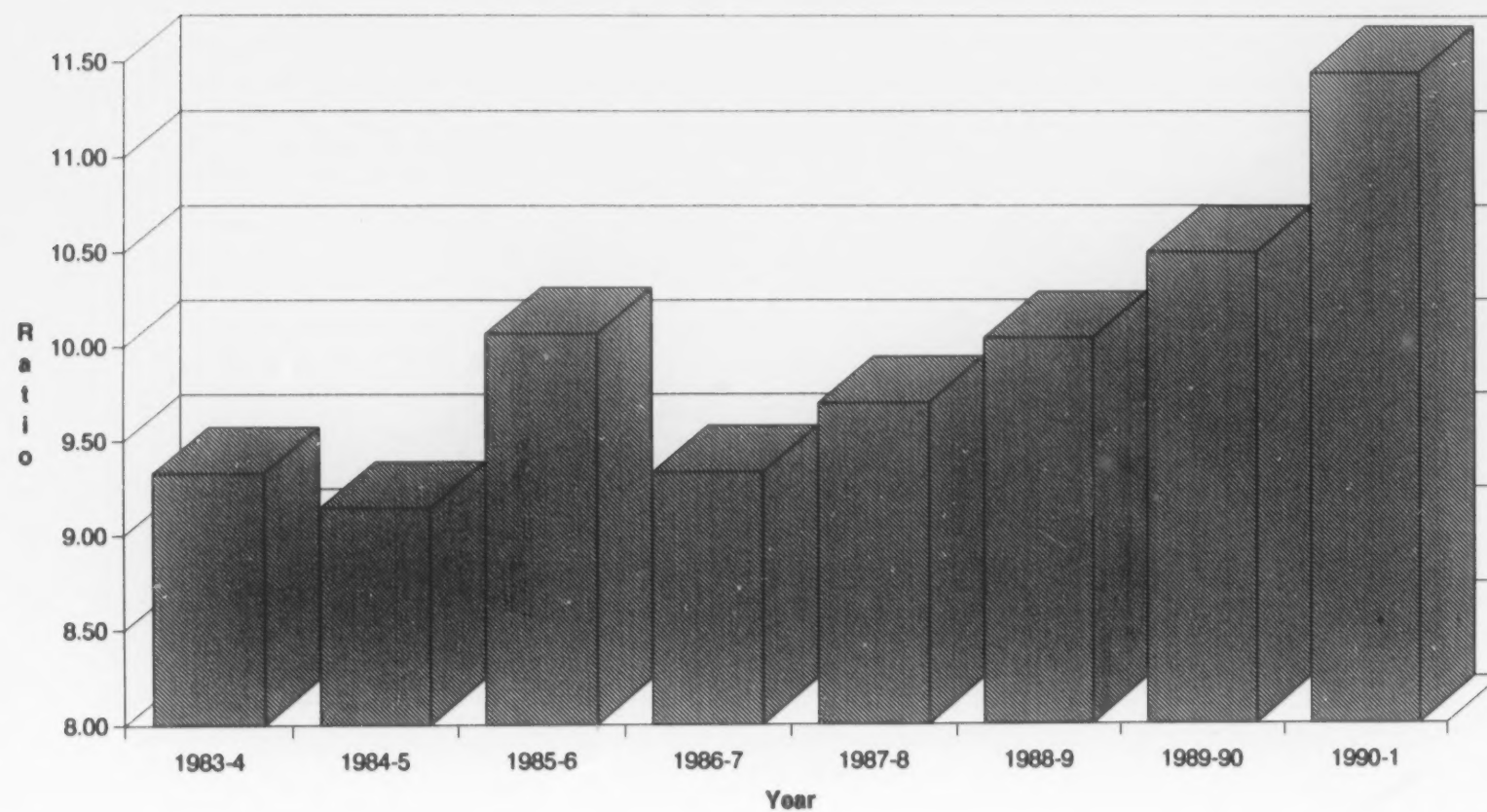


Figure 4

Number of Applications--All National Fellowship Competitions

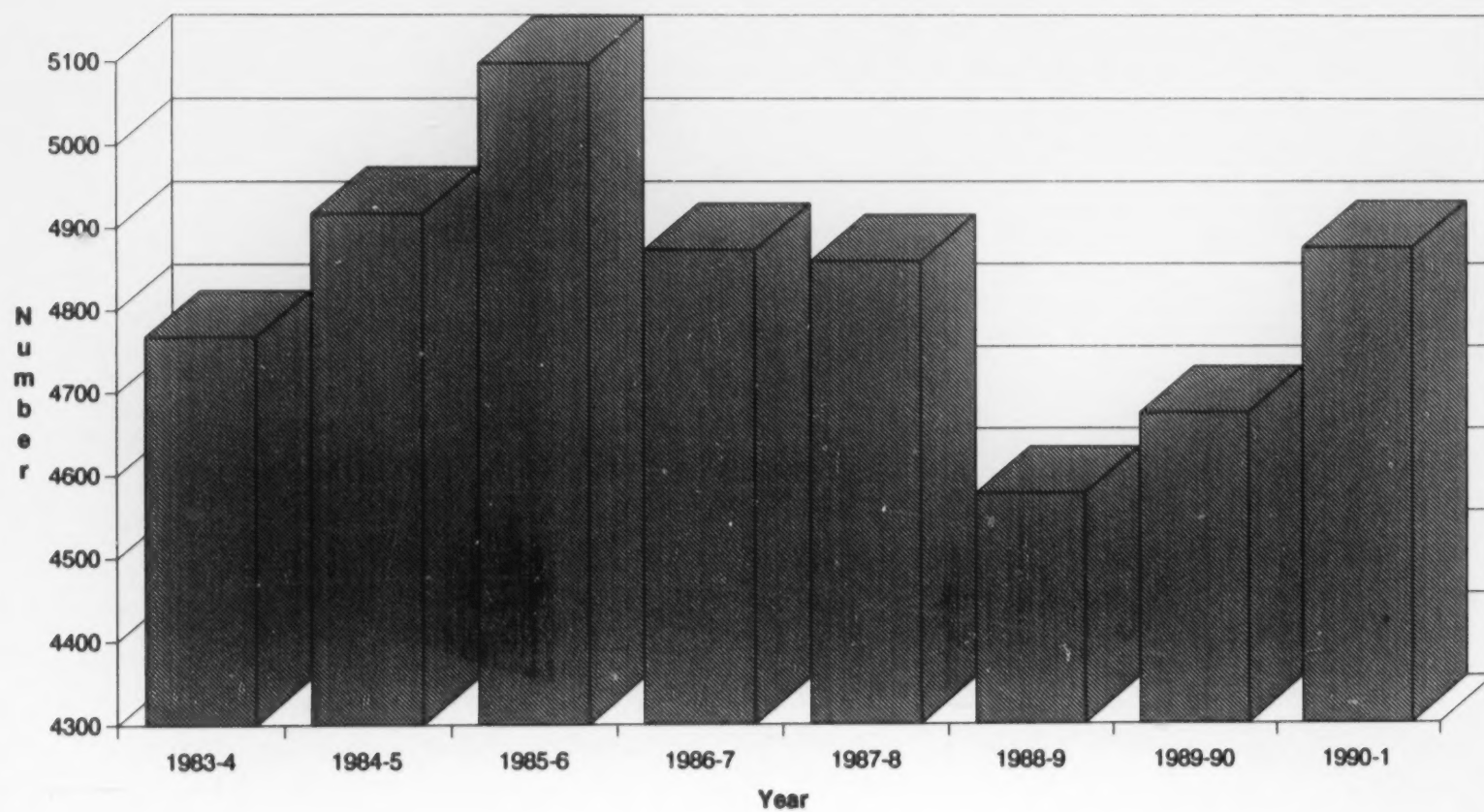


Figure 5

National Fellowship Resources in Constant Dollars

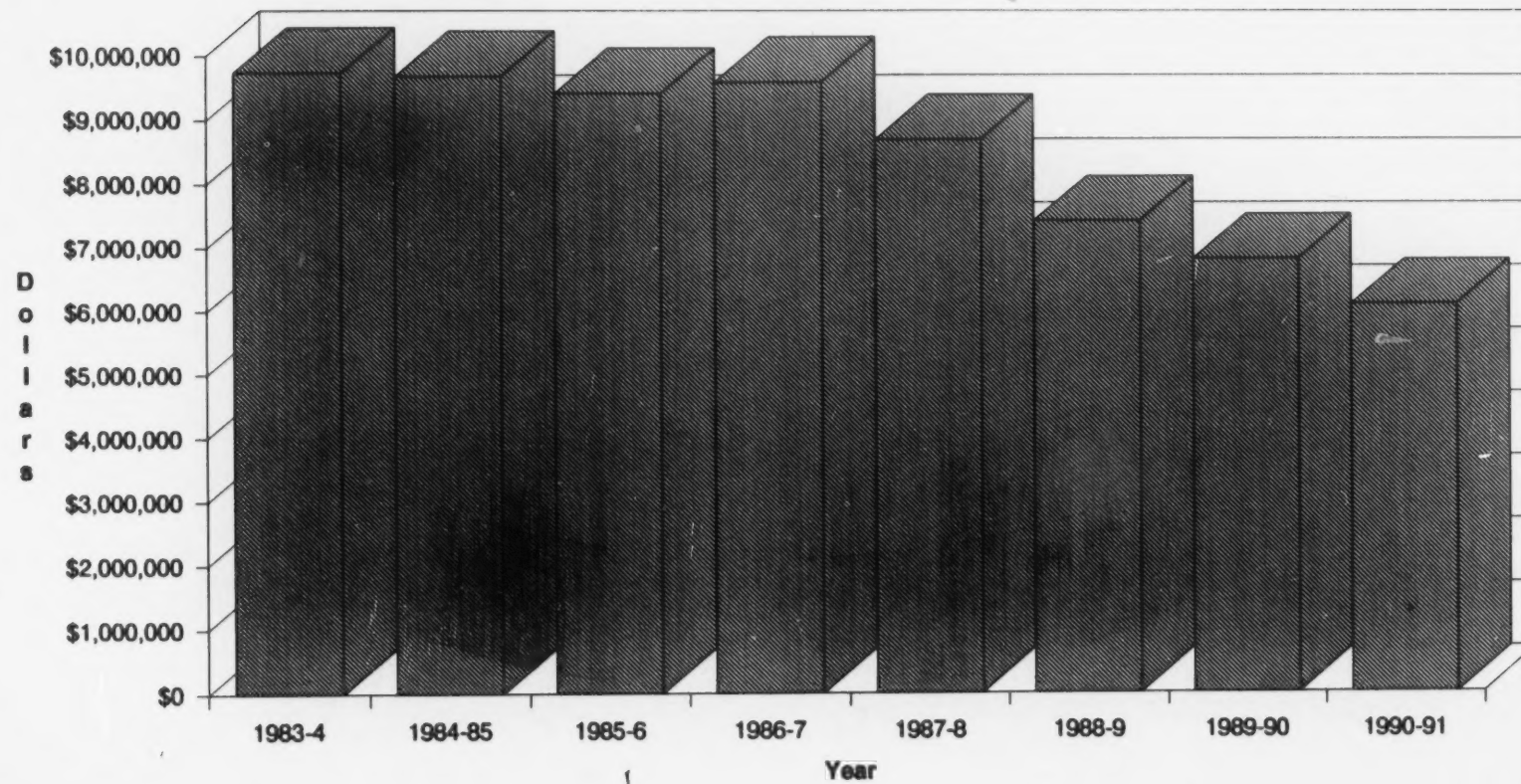


Figure 6

Comparison of Increase in Total Expenditures for All Programs With Consumer Price Index (1983-1984 = 100)

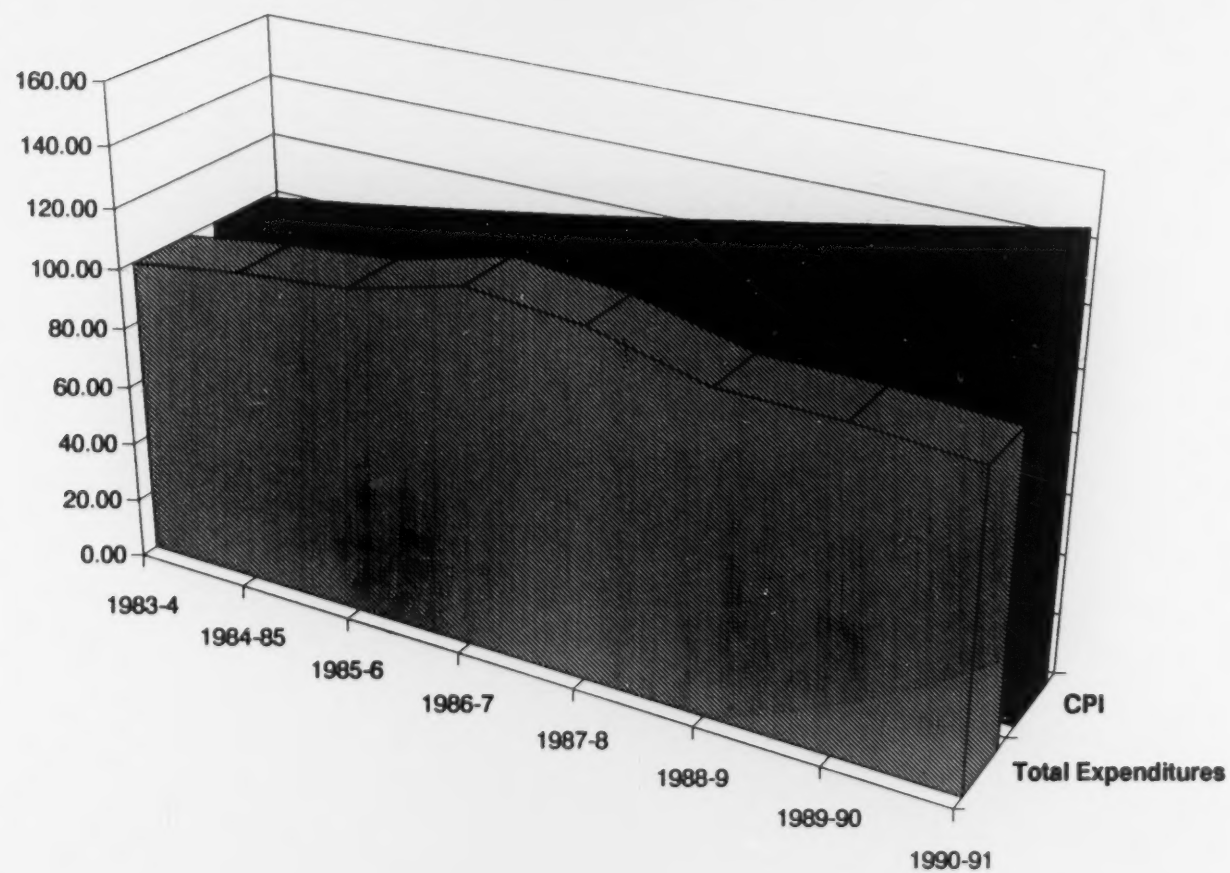


Figure 7

Average Stipend for All National Fellowship Competitions in Constant Dollars

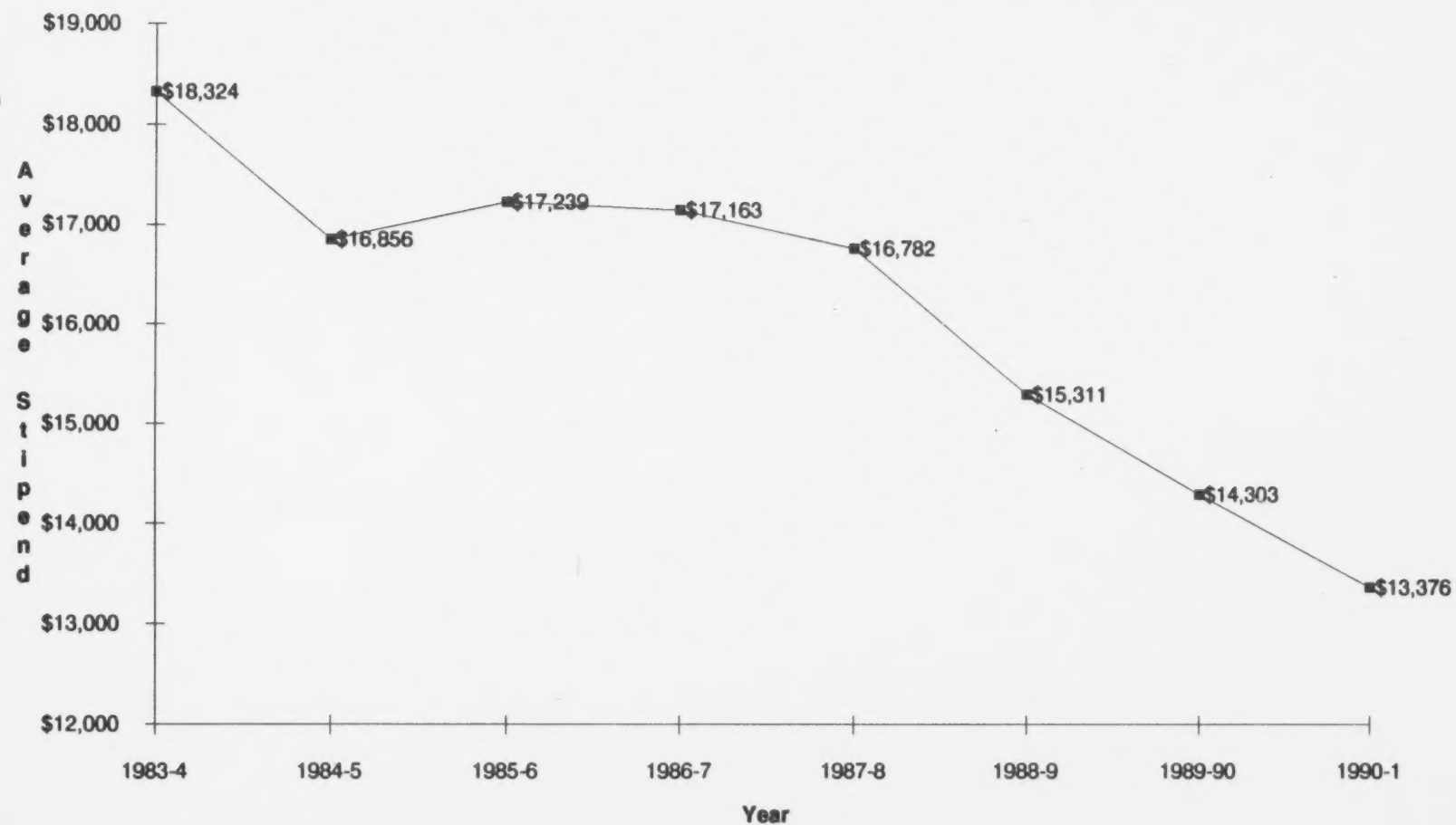


Figure 8

**Comparison of Increase in Average Stipend for All Programs With Consumer Price Index
(1983-1984 = 100)**

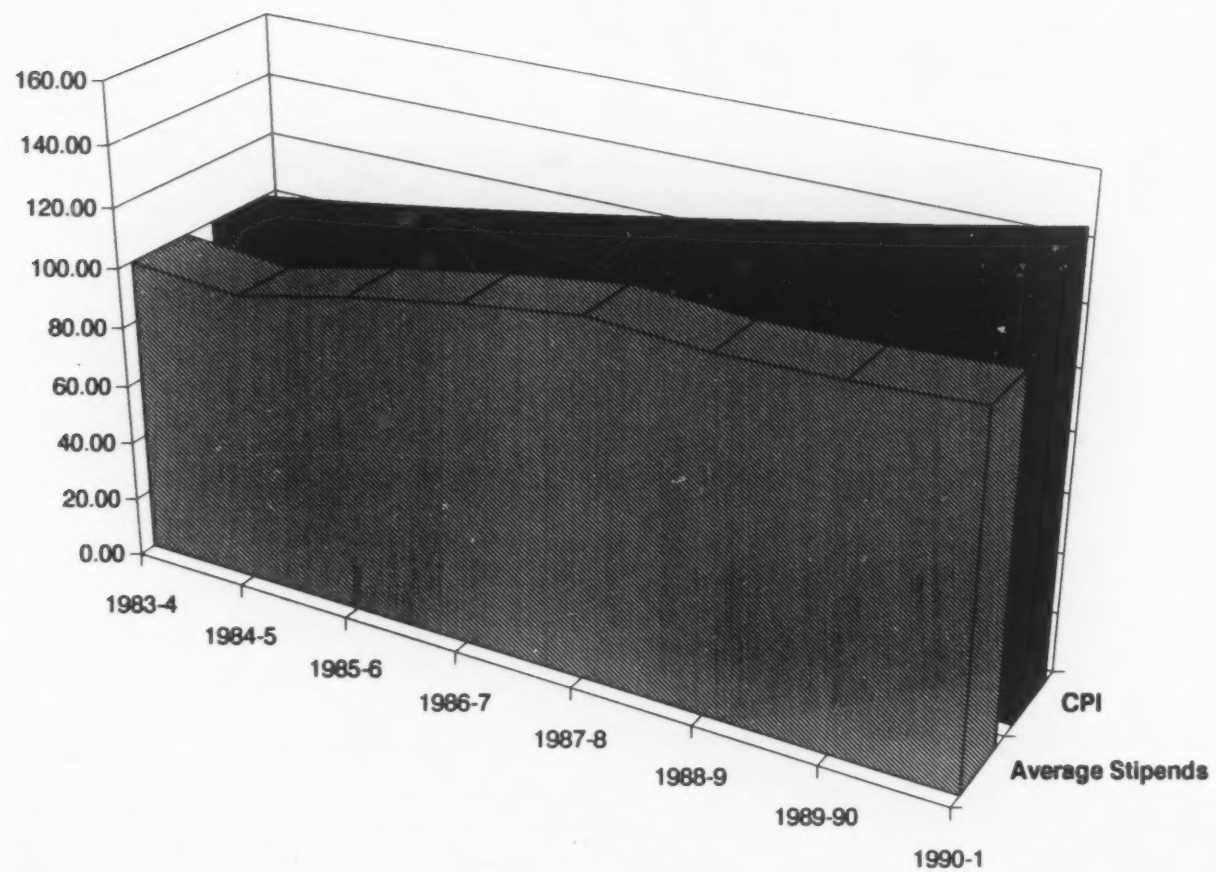


Figure 9

Distribution of Fellowship Resources, 1983-84 (\$=9,737,150)

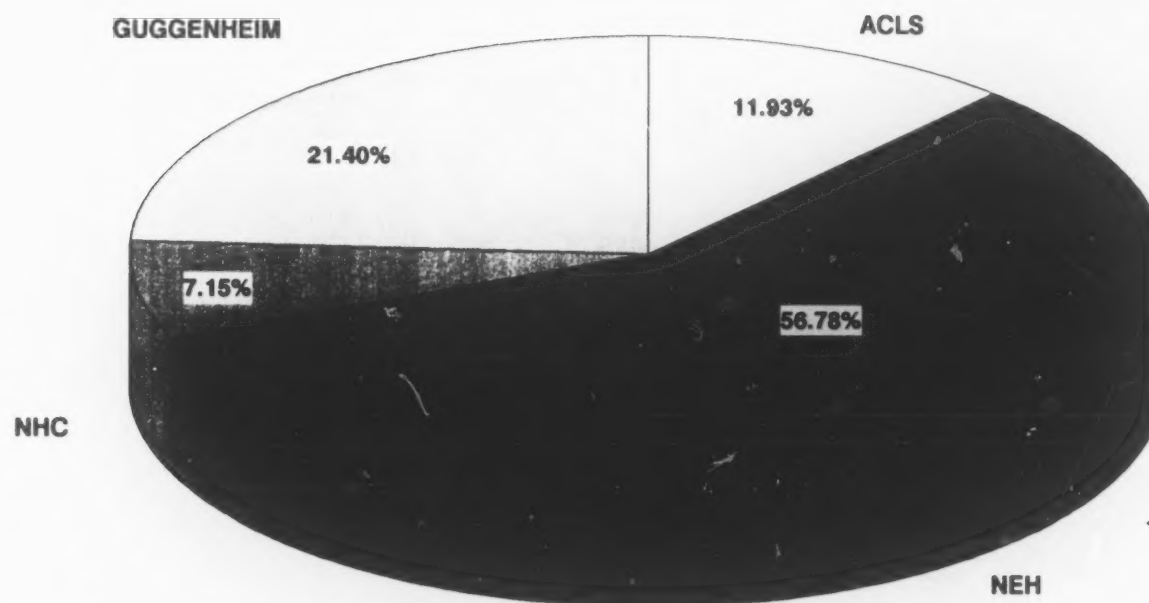


Figure 10

Distribution of Fellowship Resources, 1987-88 (\$ = 11,149,200)

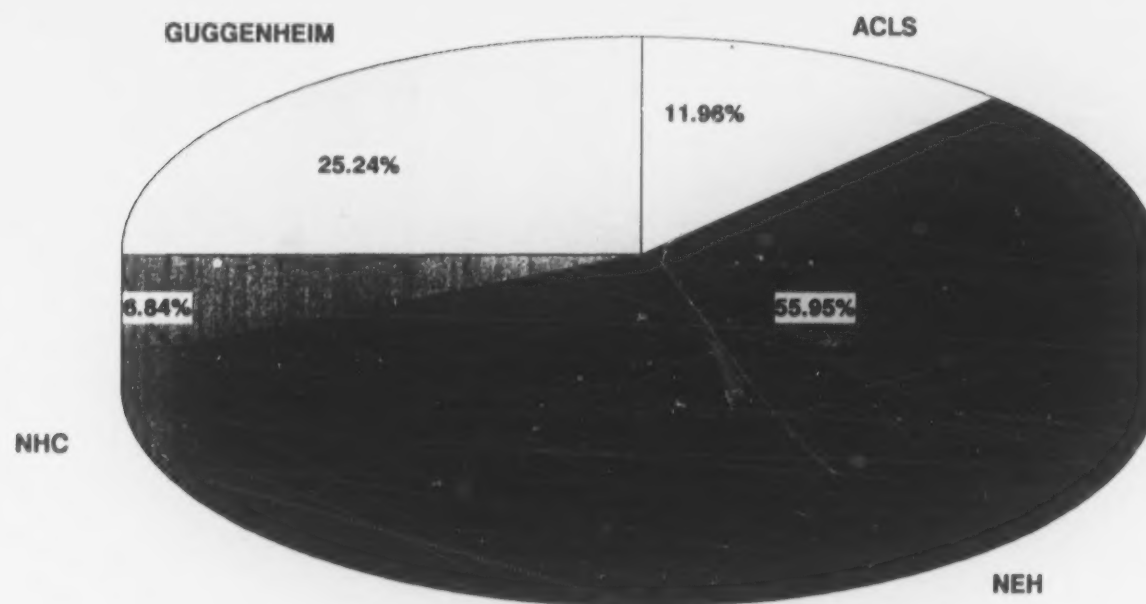


Figure 11

Distribution of Fellowship Resources, 1990-91 (\$ = 9,923,000)

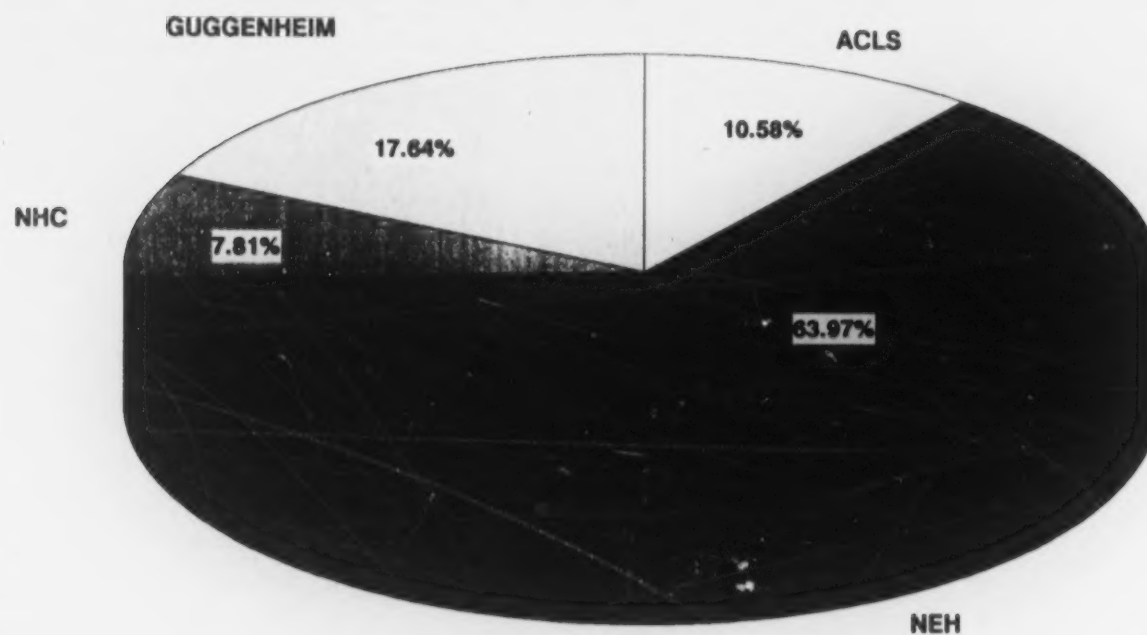


Figure 12

Distribution of Fellowship Resources, 1983-1991 (N=\$83,523,668)

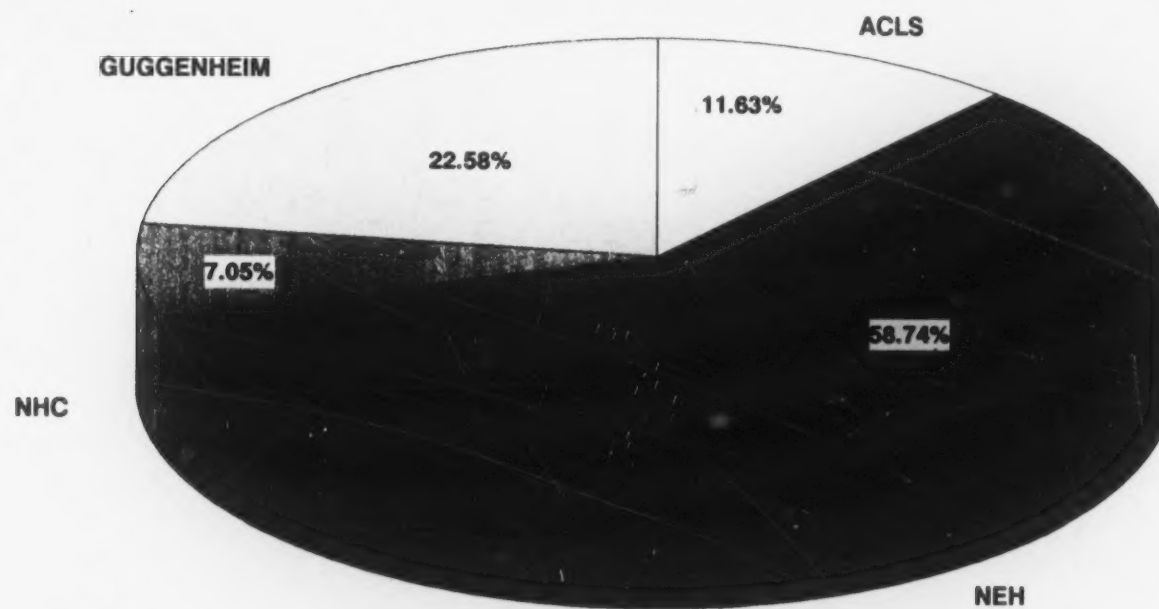


Figure 13

Distribution of Awards 1983-4 (N=515)

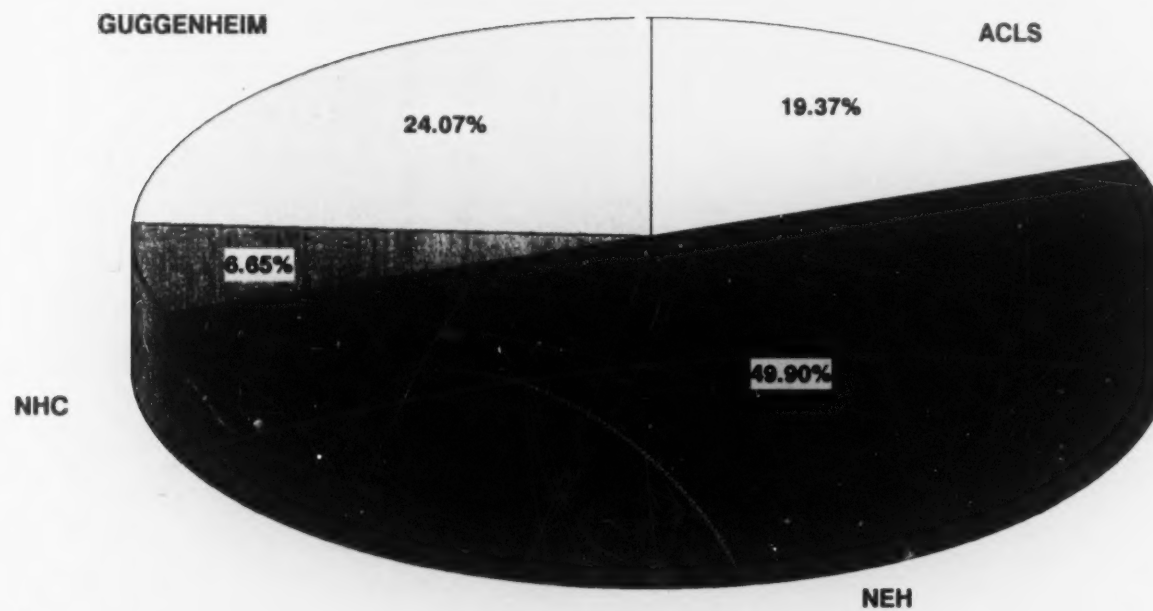


Figure 14

Distribution of Awards 1987-8(N= 501)

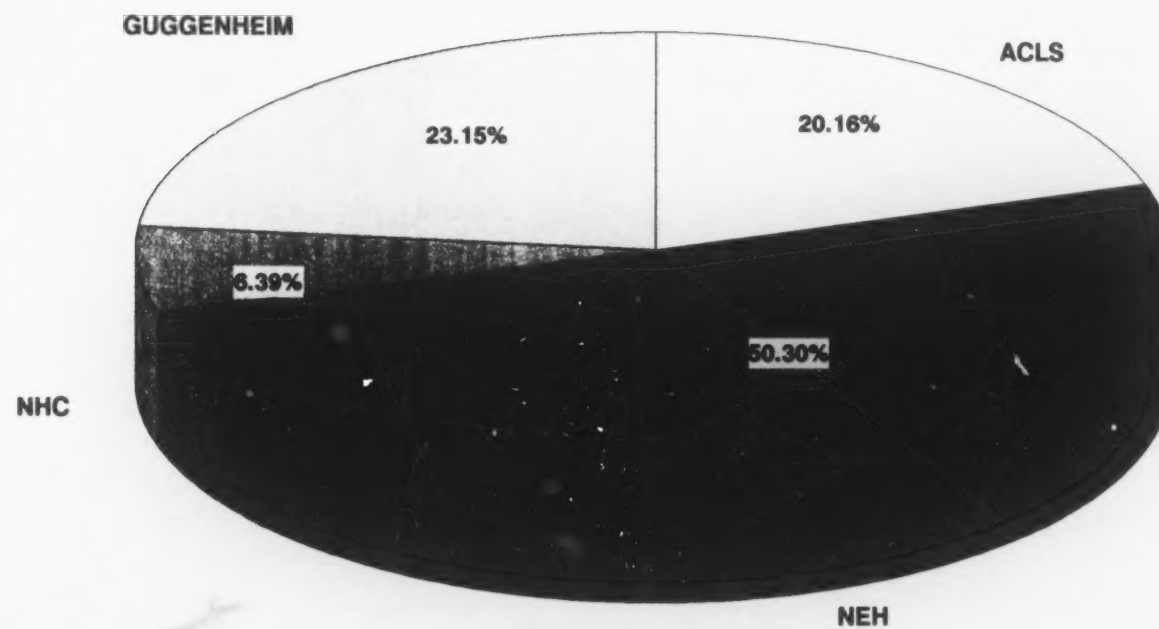


Figure 15

Distribution of Awards 1990-91 (N=426)

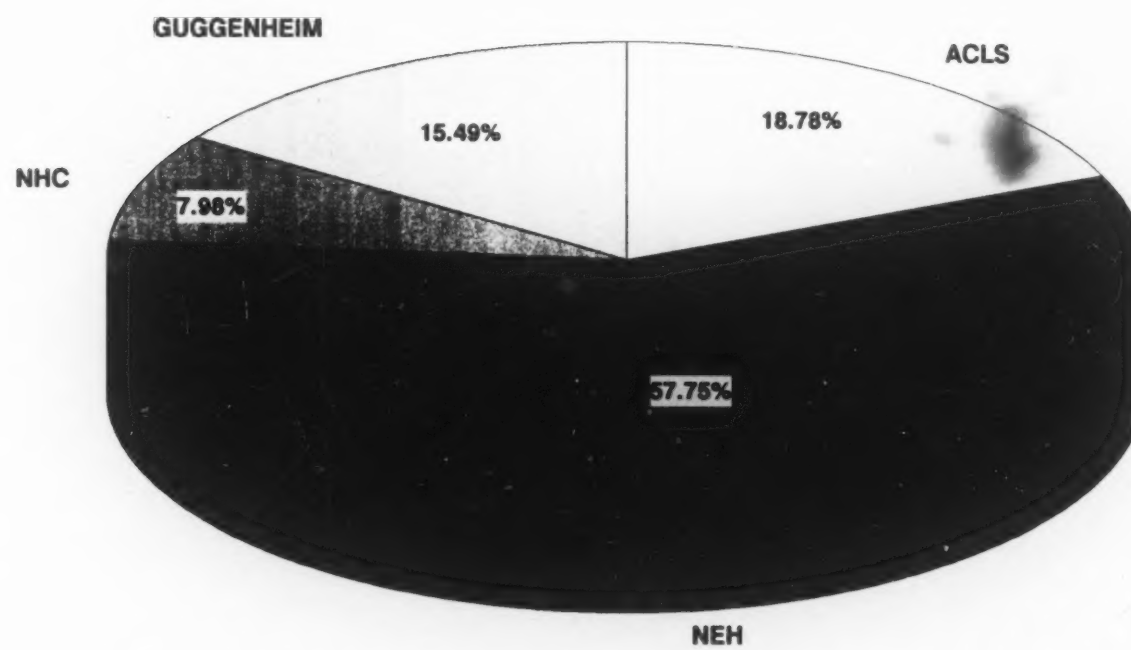


Figure 16

Distribution of Awards, 1983-1991 (N=3906)

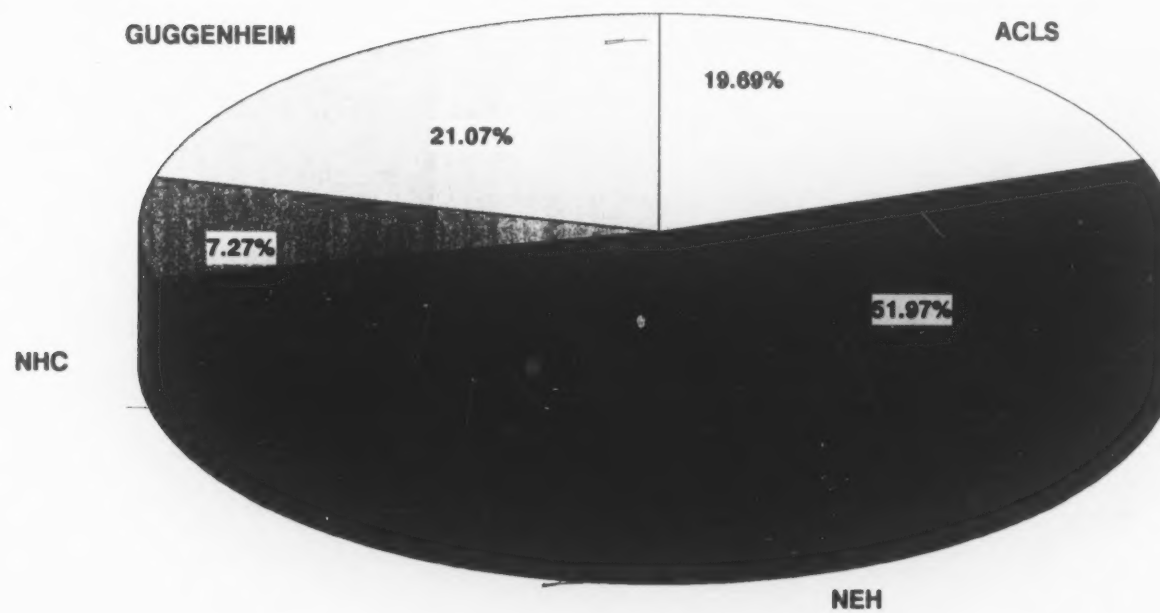


Figure 17

Applications to National Fellowship Competitions

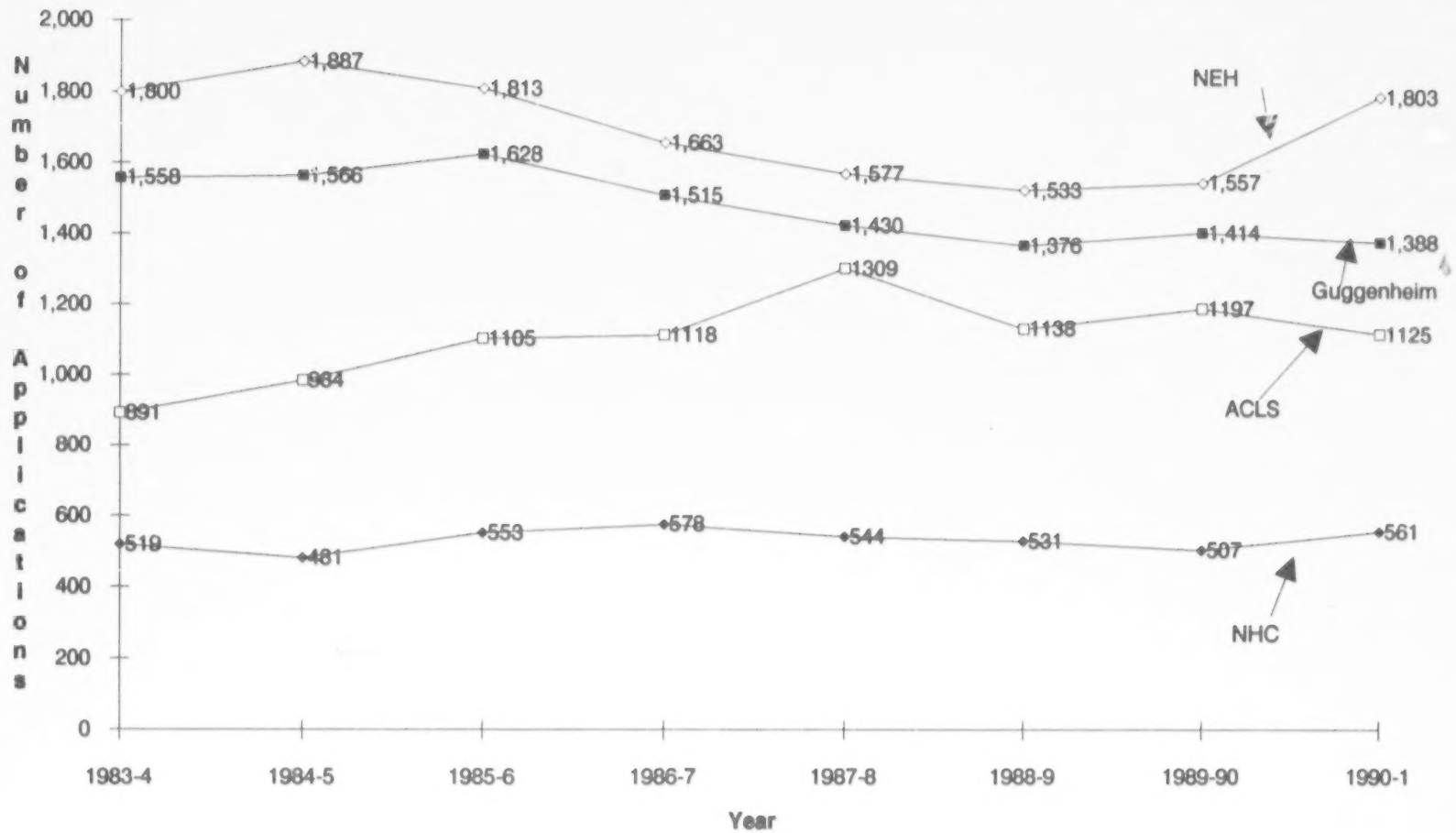


Figure 18

Number of Awards Made By National Fellowship Competitions

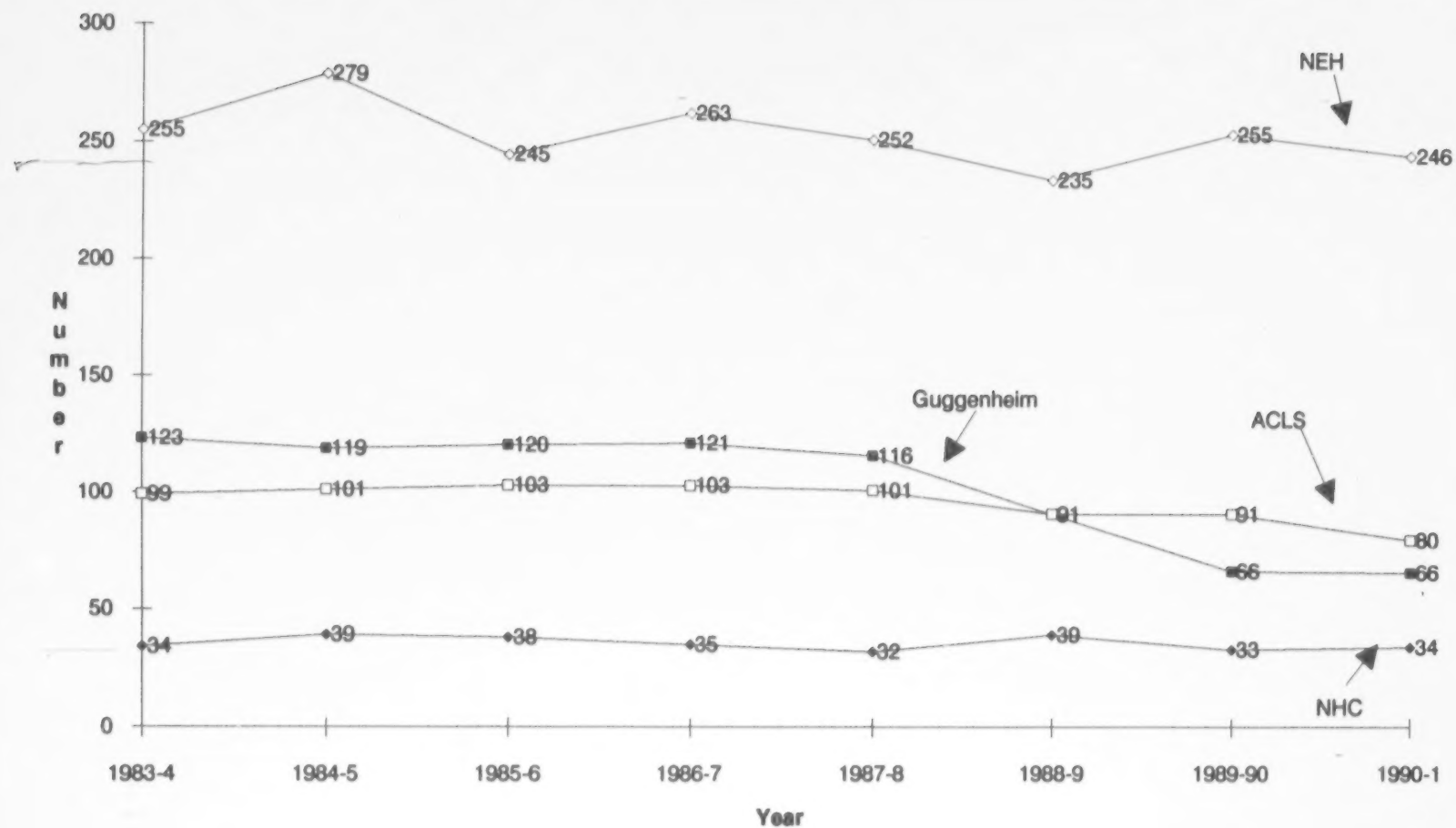


Figure 19

Average Stipends for National Fellowship Programs

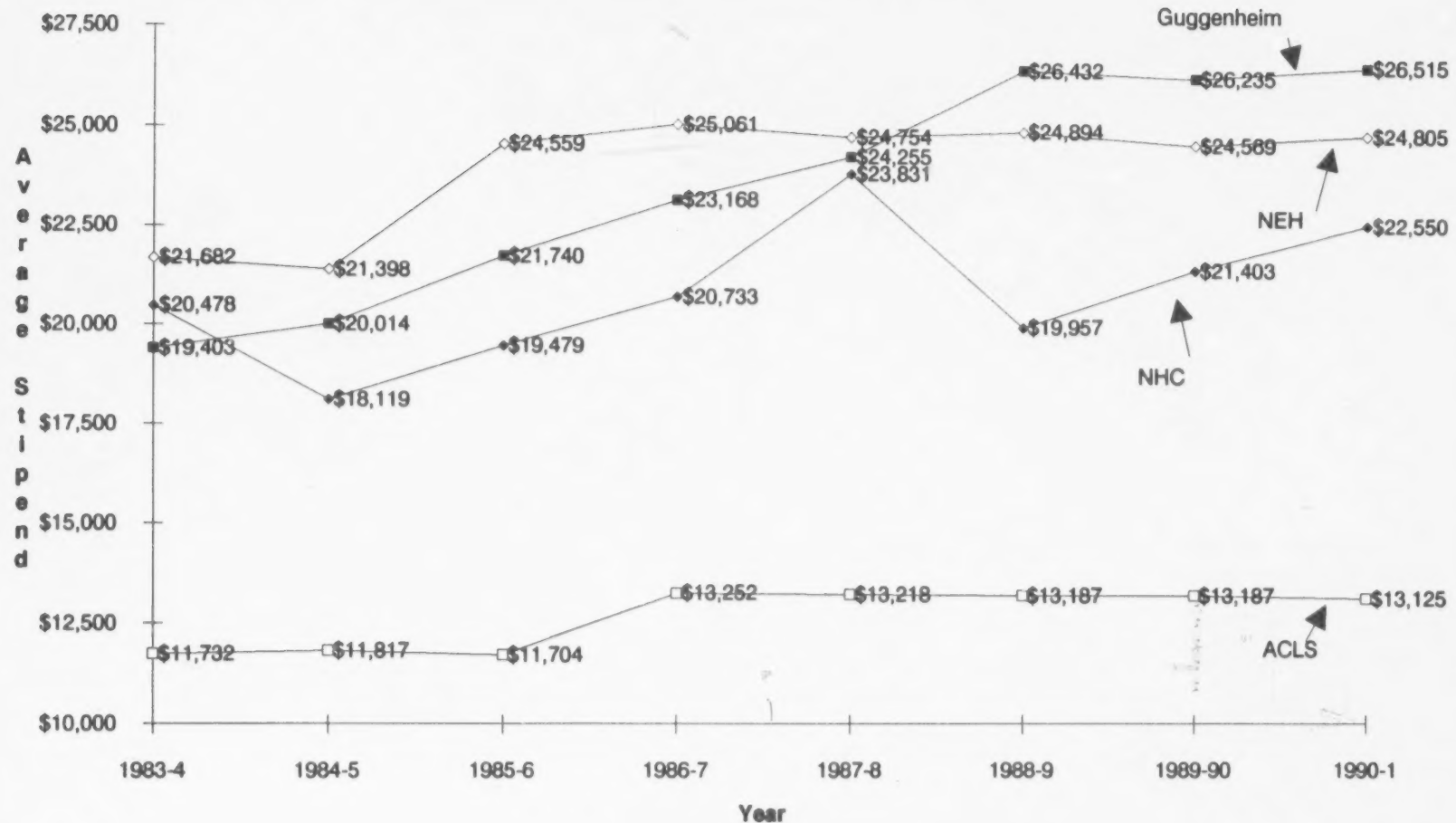


Figure 20

Average Stipends in Constant Dollars

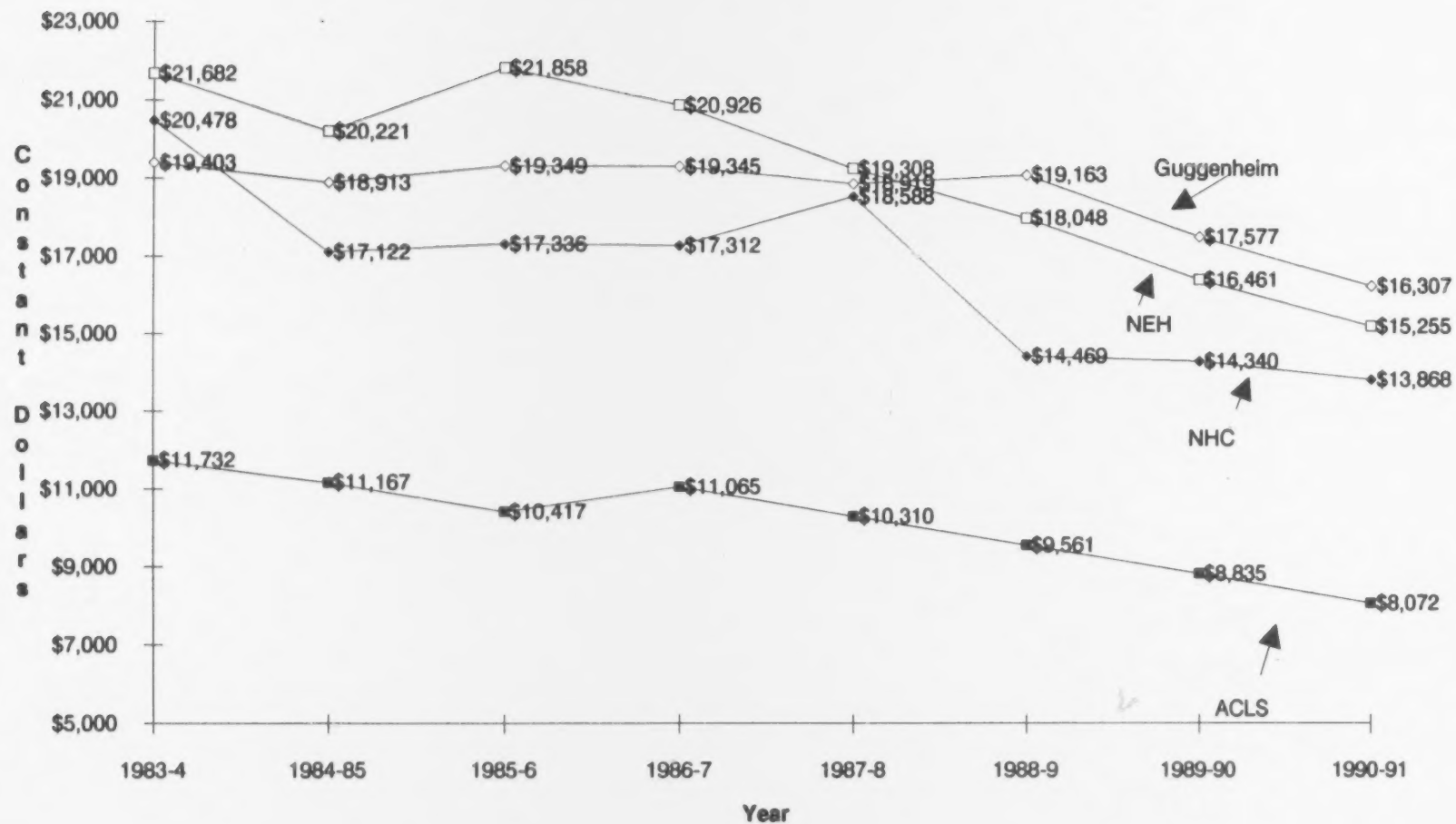


Figure 21

Ratios of Applications to Awards in National Fellowship Competitions

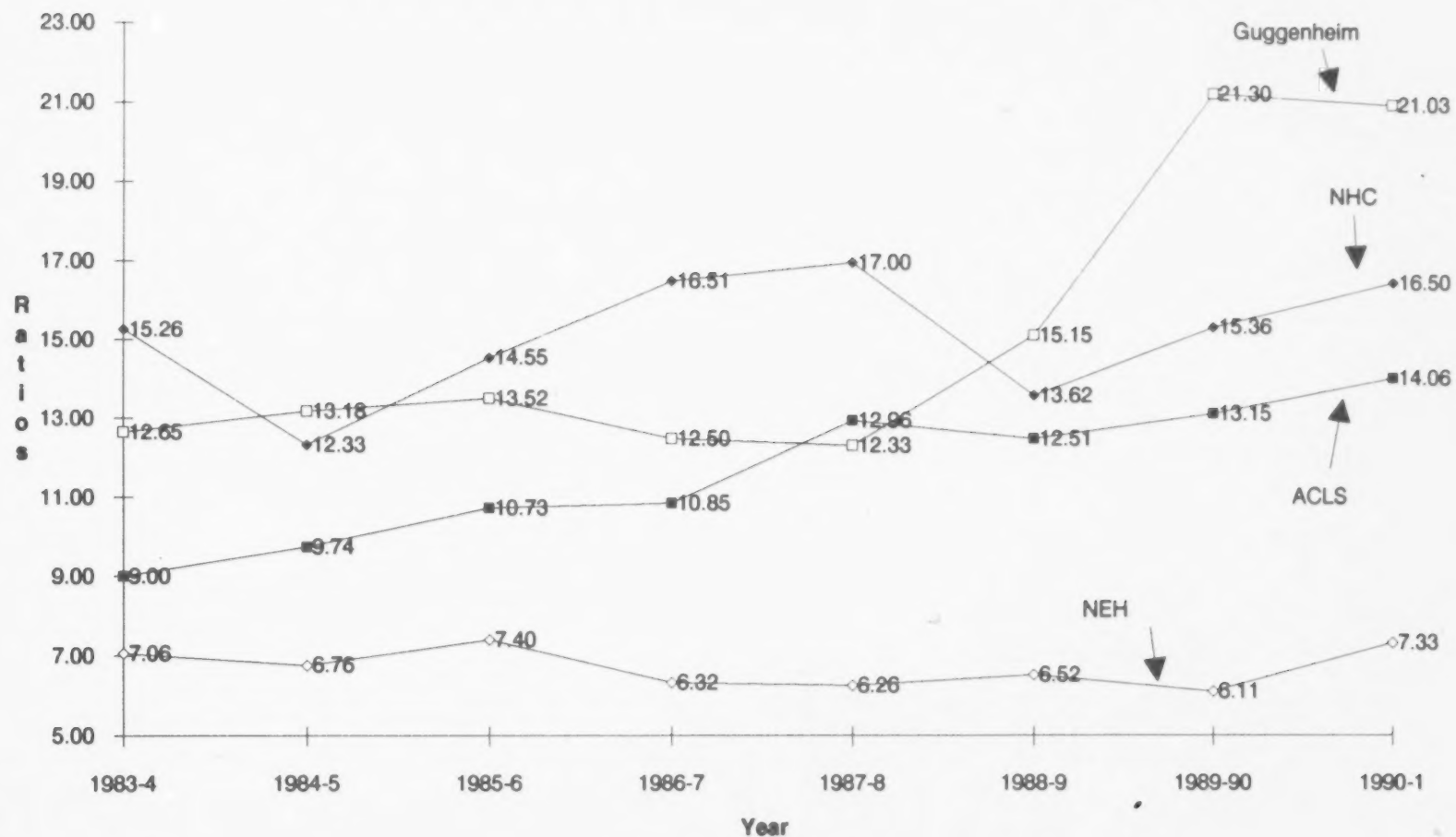


Figure 22

Total Expenditures on Stipends by National Fellowship Programs

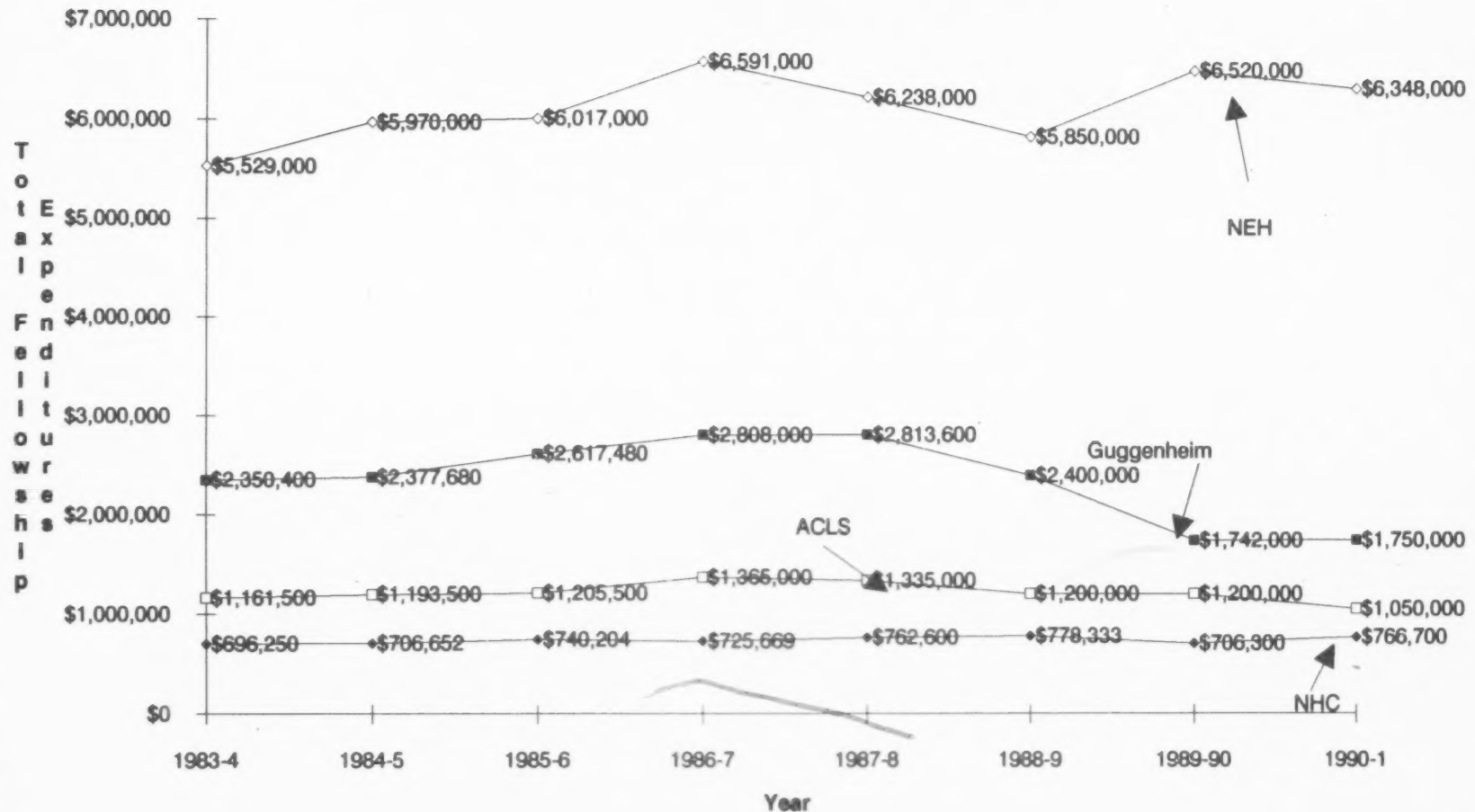


Figure 23

Total Expenditures in Constant Dollars

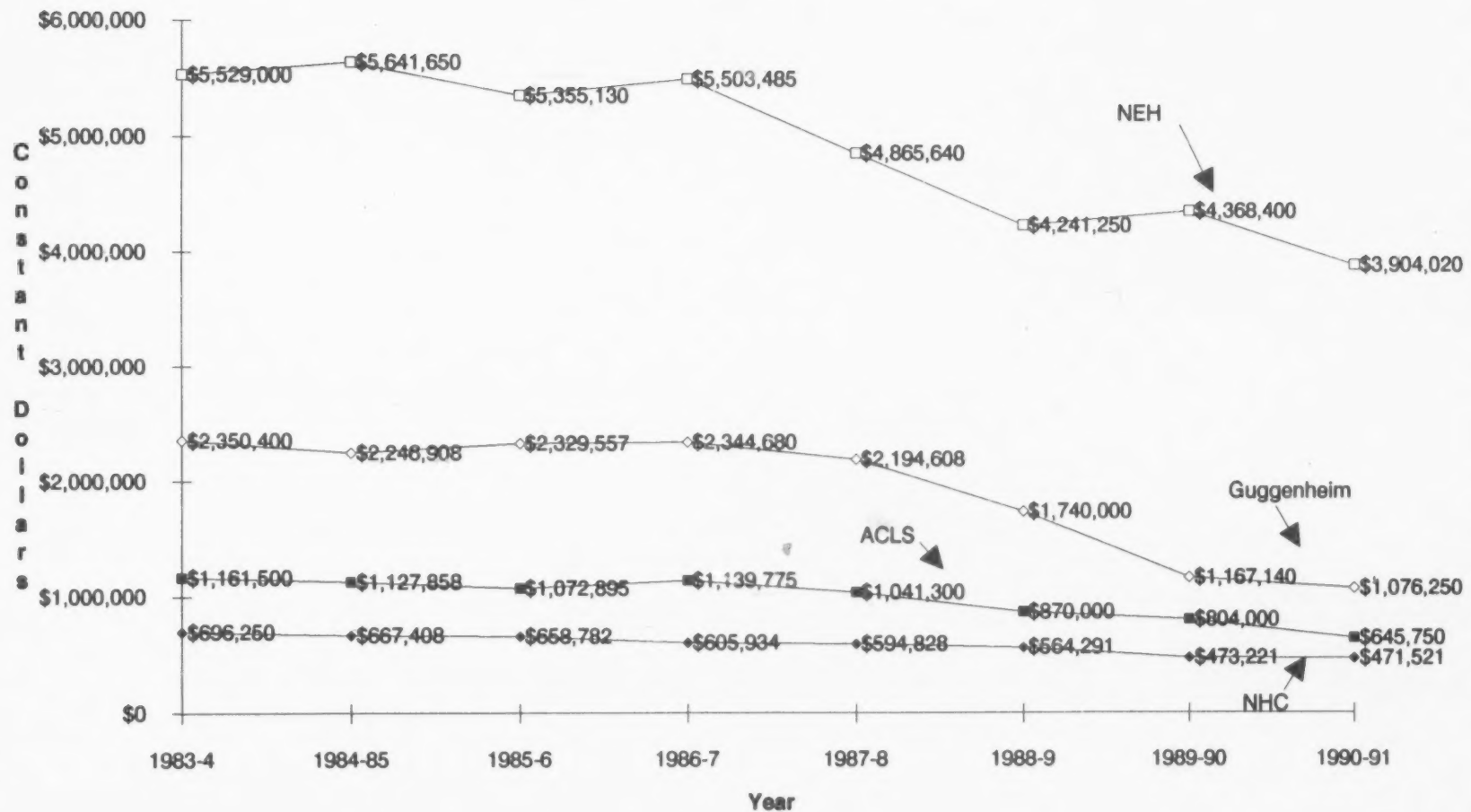


Figure 24

Average ACLS Fellowship Stipends in Constant Dollars

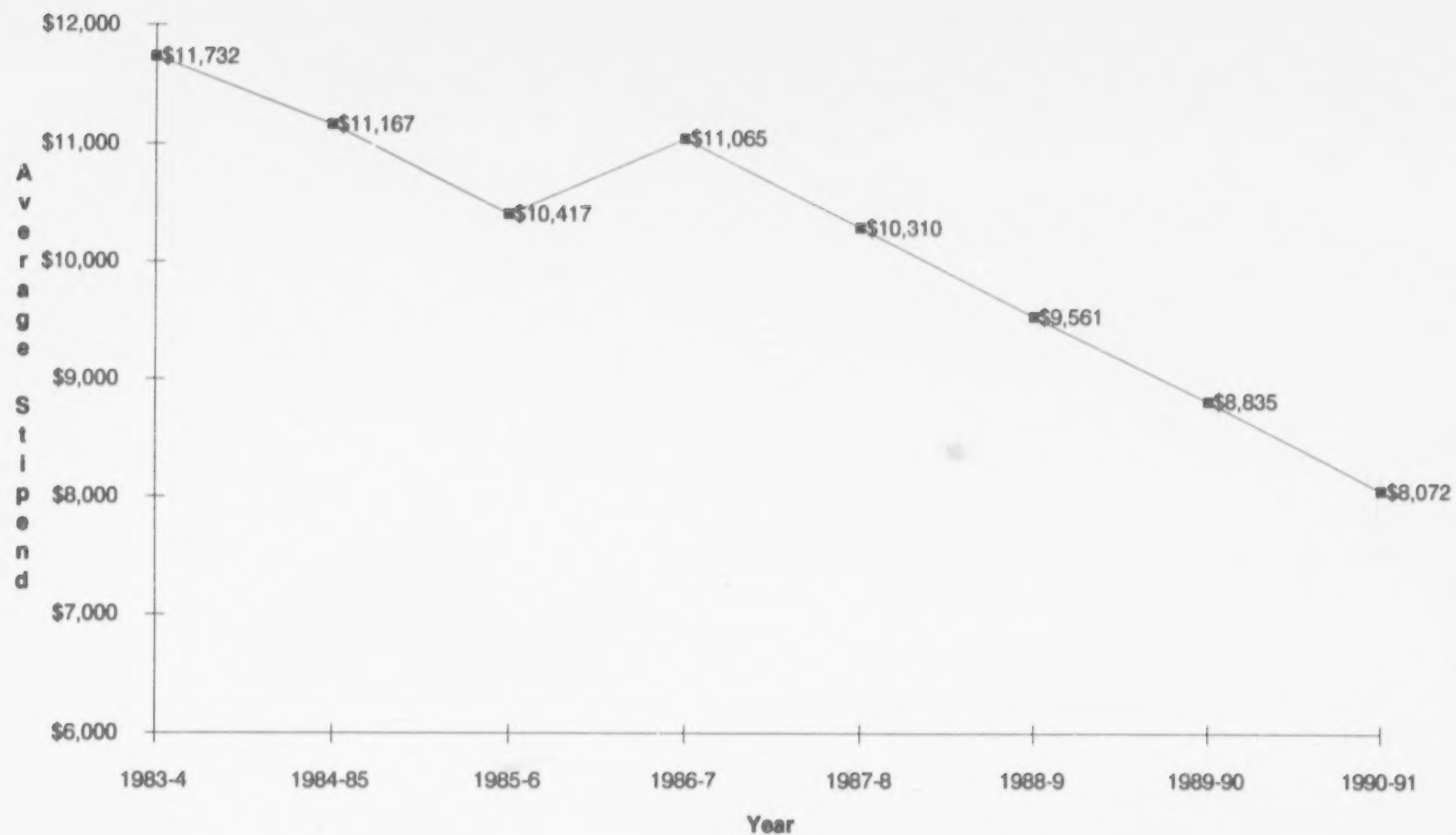


Figure 25

Total ACLS Expenditures on Fellowships in Constant Dollars

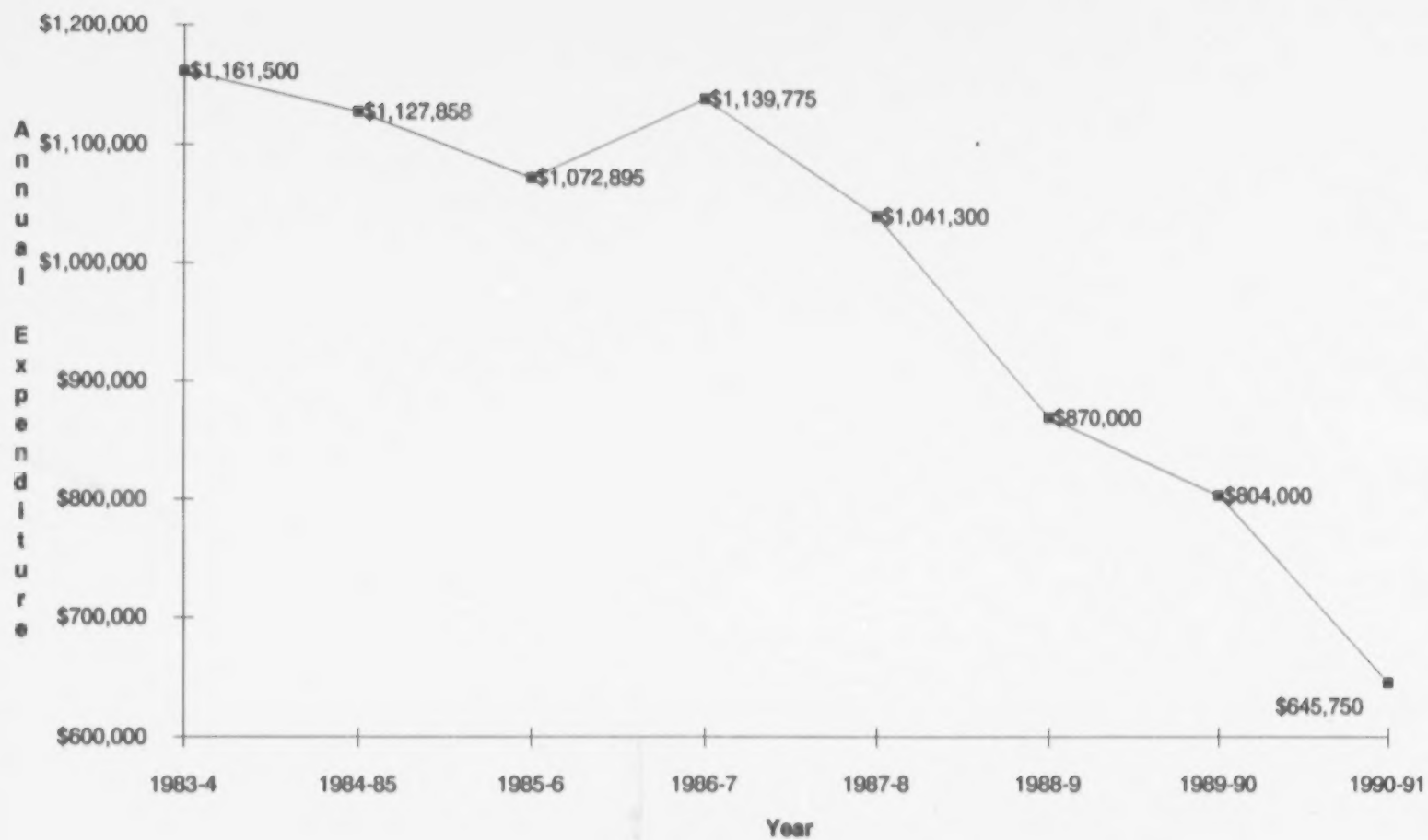


Figure 26